Ternary Operator

This lesson discusses ternary operators in detail including compound ternary expressions using examples.

We'll cover the following

Ternary Operator

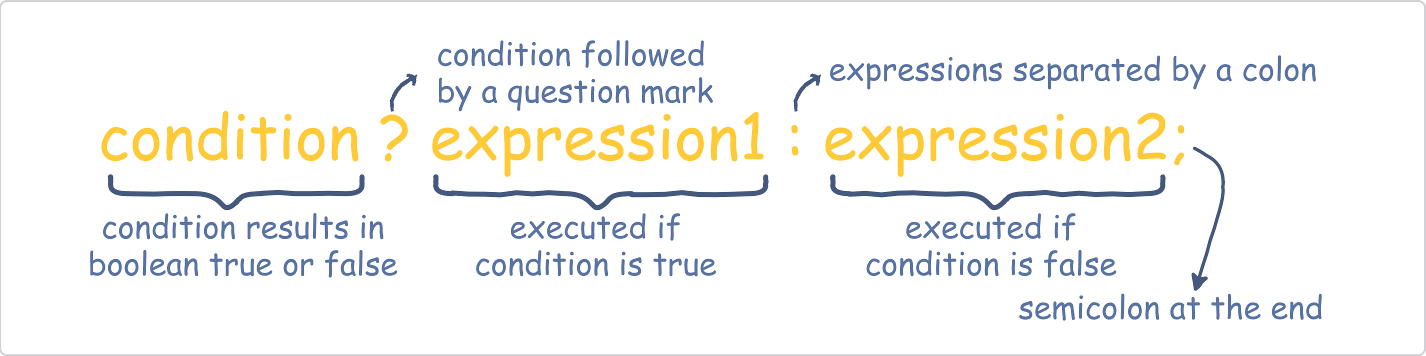
The *ternary operator* is a **comparison** *operator* that evaluates something based on a condition being true or not.

> The *ternary operator* is shorthand syntax for `if-else`.

It allows to quickly test a condition and often replaces a *multi-line* `if` statement, making your code more compact.

Syntax

Here's the syntax:



condition followed by a question mark
expressions separated by a colon
condition ? expression1 : expression2;
condition results in boolean true or false
executed if condition is true
executed if condition is false
semicolon at the end

Example

Let’s take a look at an example which uses *ternary* operators.

```
<?php
$a = 1; //Change values of $a and $b to change output of the code.
$b = 2;
echo ($a > $b) ? "a is greater than b" : "a is NOT greater than b";
?>
```

Explanation

In the code above:

- The variables `a` and `b` are set to **1** and **2**

- In line **4**, *condition* `($a > $b)` evaluates to **false**

- Hence, *expression* **2** executes and the output dispayed is: **a is NOT greater than b**

You can try changing the values of `a` and `b` to **2** and **1**.

- Now *expression* **1** will execute since the *condition* will evaluate to **true** this time as `a` will be greater than `b`

- At the end, the output displayed will be: **a is greater than b**

This marks the end of our discussion on *conditional statements* in PHP. Let’s solve a quick quiz to practice the concepts we just discussed.