Introduction

This lesson will give a basic introduction to functions and its types, like inbuilt and user-defined functions, as well as their PHP syntax.

We'll cover the following

What is a Function?

A *function* is a block of code that is written in order to perform a *specific* task.

Let's discuss a real-life example to understand the concept better. Suppose that a headmaster wants a teacher to calculate the average marks of the students in a class for a particular subject. The teacher will note down all the marks of the students for that subject, perform the required calculations to calculate the average mark and then report the result to the headmaster.

Functions work in a similar way. They take the required information to perform a task as **input parameter(s)**, perform the required **operations** on these parameters, and then they **return** the final answer.

Types of Functions

In PHP there are two major types of functions:

- Built-in functions
- User-defined functions

Built-in Functions

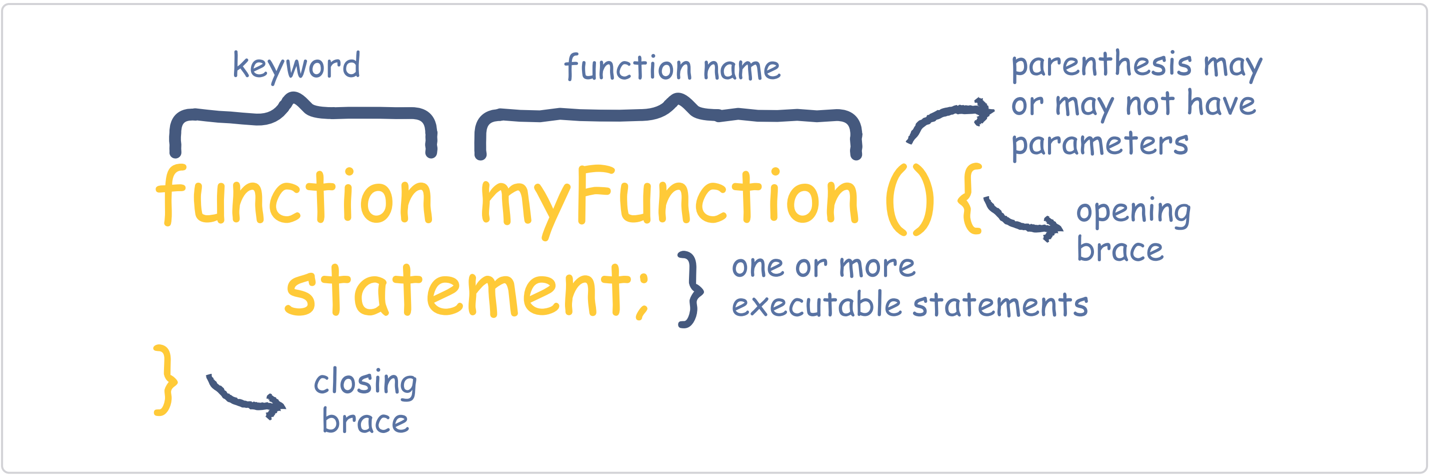
PHP already provides quite a few *built-in* functions that a user can use. These *functions* are **pre-defined** and just need to be called. Here is a list of built-in functions in PHP.

User-defined Functions

Apart from **built-in** *functions*, PHP also allows us to make our own **customized** *functions*. These *functions* can be written such that they would perform the required task wherever necessary once they're called.

Implementation

Now let's discuss the method to write a **user-defined** *function* below.



Example

Let's take a look at an *example* now.

```
<?php

function exampleFunc() //function that outputs some text

{
    echo "This is a user-defined function";
}

// Calling the function
exampleFunc();

?>
```

Explanation

As you can see from the *example* above:

Line 3

- You first write the *keyword* `function`.
- Next you write the name of the *function*, in this case, it's `Examplefunc`.

Line 5

- Then you write the body of the function in between the *curly braces*.

Line 9

- In the end, you simply call the *function* as can be seen in **line 9** above.

In the *example* above, we didn't pass any *parameters* to our *function* as there was no need. In the next lesson let's look at what *parameters* are and how to pass them to our *functions*.