

"Hello World" Explained

This lesson explains in detail the Hello World code written in the last lesson. It explains the basic syntax used in almost every PHP code.

We'll cover the following ^

- PHP Opening Tag
- echo
- PHP Closing Tag
- Semicolons

Here's the code from the previous lesson:

```
<?php
echo "Hello, World!\n";
?>
```



Let's take a look at this in detail.

We'll start from the very first line and go step by step!

PHP Opening Tag

A **PHP** script can be written anywhere in the document, and it signifies the start of the PHP code.

<?php
php opening tag

echo

PHP uses a built in *function* called **echo** in order to display one or more strings

PHP uses a built-in *function* called `echo` in order to display one or more strings.

Tip: The `echo` function is faster than the `print()` function.

The diagram illustrates the syntax of the `echo` statement. It shows the word `echo` in yellow, followed by a string in double quotes `"Hello, world!"` in yellow, and a semicolon `;` in yellow. Brackets and arrows provide labels: a bracket under `echo` is labeled 'keyword'; a bracket under the string is labeled 'string you want to print'; an arrow from the string to the label 'string inside double quotes' is shown above; and an arrow from the semicolon to the label 'semicolon at the end' is shown below.

Note: You may use parentheses with the `echo` function as `echo ("string");` but it isn't compulsory because `echo` isn't really a function.

PHP Closing Tag

The PHP closing tag marks the end of the PHP code. It is written as:

The diagram shows the PHP closing tag `?>` in yellow. An arrow points from the tag to the label 'php closing tag' in blue.

Note: All code in **PHP** is written between the starting (`<?php`) and ending (`?>`) symbol. However, the closing tag of a PHP code block at the end of a file is optional. The code would still execute properly even if the closing tag is missing.

Semicolons

Statements in **PHP** must be terminated with a **semicolon**.

- Just as sentences in English must be terminated with a period.
- Just as sentences in English can span several lines, so can the statements in PHP.

You can use as many spaces and newlines between the start and end symbol of a PHP program as you wish. It helps beautify your code just as spaces are used to align the text printed on the pages of a book.

Now that we have learned the basics let's take a quick quiz in the next lesson.