

Removing Elements from Arrays

This lesson discusses an important array operation, i.e., removing elements from an array.

We'll cover the following

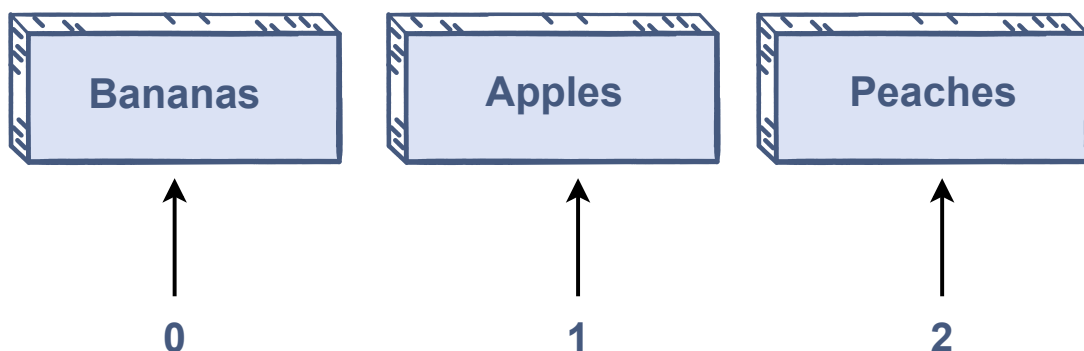
- Removing Elements from Indexed Arrays
- Removing Elements from Associative Arrays

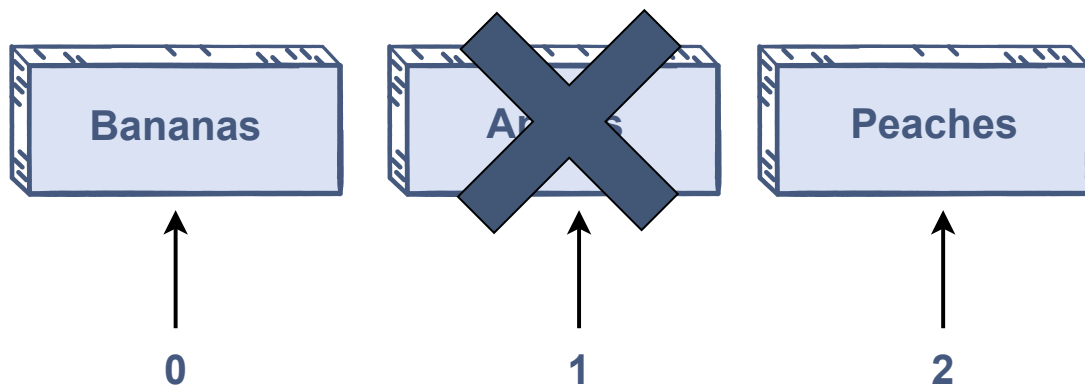
PHP built-in function `unset()` is used to remove an element from an array.

Removing Elements from Indexed Arrays

Specifying an array element as an input parameter for `unset()` will remove that element from an indexed array. Below is the code for removing an element at index `1` in the array `$fruit`:

```
<?php
$fruit = array("bananas", "apples", "peaches");
unset($fruit[1]);
print_r($fruit);
?>
```





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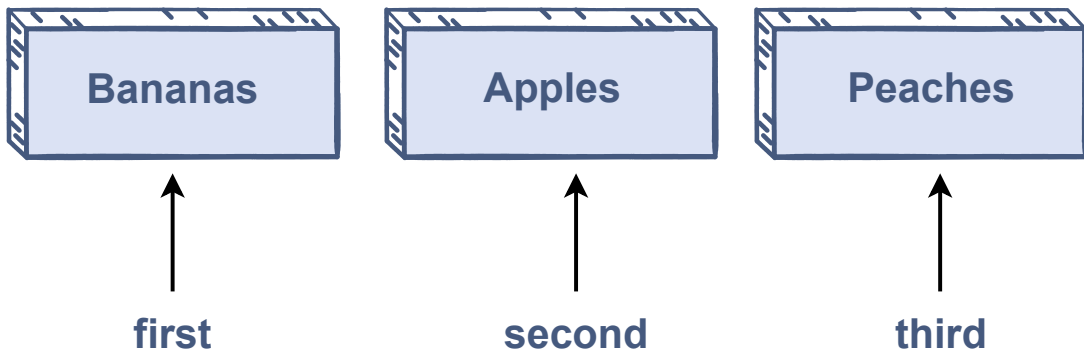
This will remove the apples from the list, but notice that `unset` does **not** change the keys (indexes in this case) of the remaining elements. So `$fruit` now contains the indexes `0` and `2`. Trying to access the value at index `1` will generate an error since this index does not exist.

Removing Elements from Associative Arrays

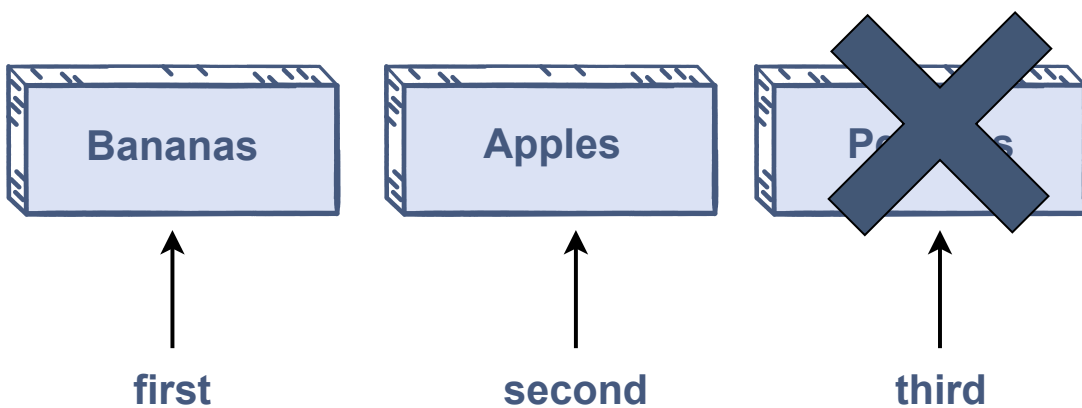
Specifying an associative array element as an input parameter for `unset()` will remove that element from an associative array. Below is the code for removing the

value with the key **third** in the array, **\$fruit**. Run the code below to see how this works:

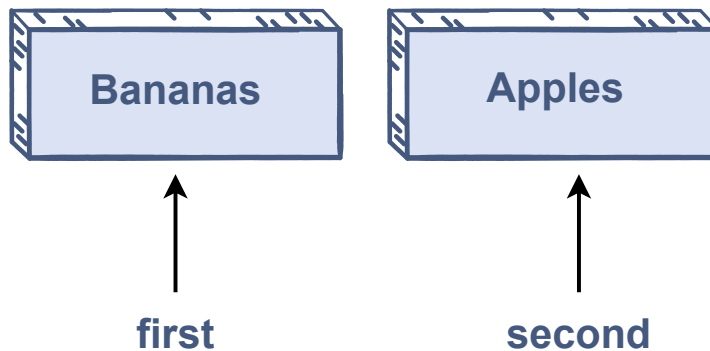
```
<?php
$fruit = array('first'=>'banana', 'second'=>'apple', 'third'=>'peaches');
unset($fruit['third']);
print_r($fruit);
?>
```



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`unset($fruits['third'])` will remove `peaches` from the list, but notice that `unset()` does **not** change the keys of the remaining elements. So, `$fruit` now contains **two** keys and their associated values. Trying to access the value at the key `third` will generate an error since this key does not exist now.

`unset($fruit)` unsets the variable and thus removes the whole array, meaning none of its elements are accessible anymore.

Note: The function `unset` can also be used to destroy single variables.

The next lesson discusses how you can sort arrays in PHP.