Switch Statement

This lesson introduces the switch statement, its basic syntax and how it is written using an example

We'll cover the following

Switch Case Construct

Typically this is required when based on different values of a particular expression, different actions need to be performed. The basic construct of a switch case looks as follows:

```
switch (expression)
{
  case constant-expression:
     statement; //statement(s) execute if constant-expression is true
     break; //exit the switch block
  default: //the code inside default is run when no other cases match
     statement;
     break;
}
```

- In the code block above the `expression` can have multiple values. Essentially:
  - **string**
  - **integer**
- `case` section with `constant-expression` can have the value as
  - a constant
  - an expression that results in a constant
- It decides to which **case statement** control will be transferred

- The `default` section is optional and only gets executed when none of the `constant-expression` matches with the `expression`
- `break` is used at the end of each block to prevent the code from running into the next case automatically.

Example

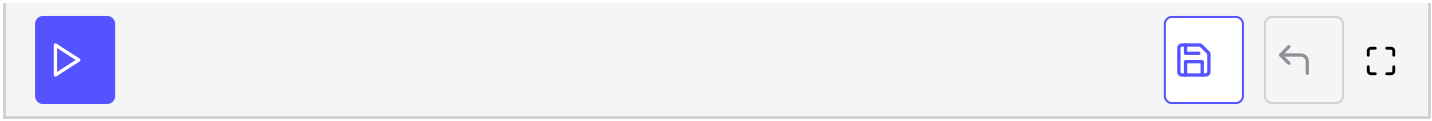
The example below implements `switch` statements.

```
<?php

$x = 2; //change value of x to see output for different cases

switch ($x) {
  case 1: //is x=1?
    echo "Your value for case 1 is $x";
    break;
  case 2: //is x=2?
    echo "Your value for case 2 is $x";
    break;
  default: //executed if neither case 1 nor case 2 are executed
    echo "Your value in default case is $x";
    break;
}

?>
```



Explanation

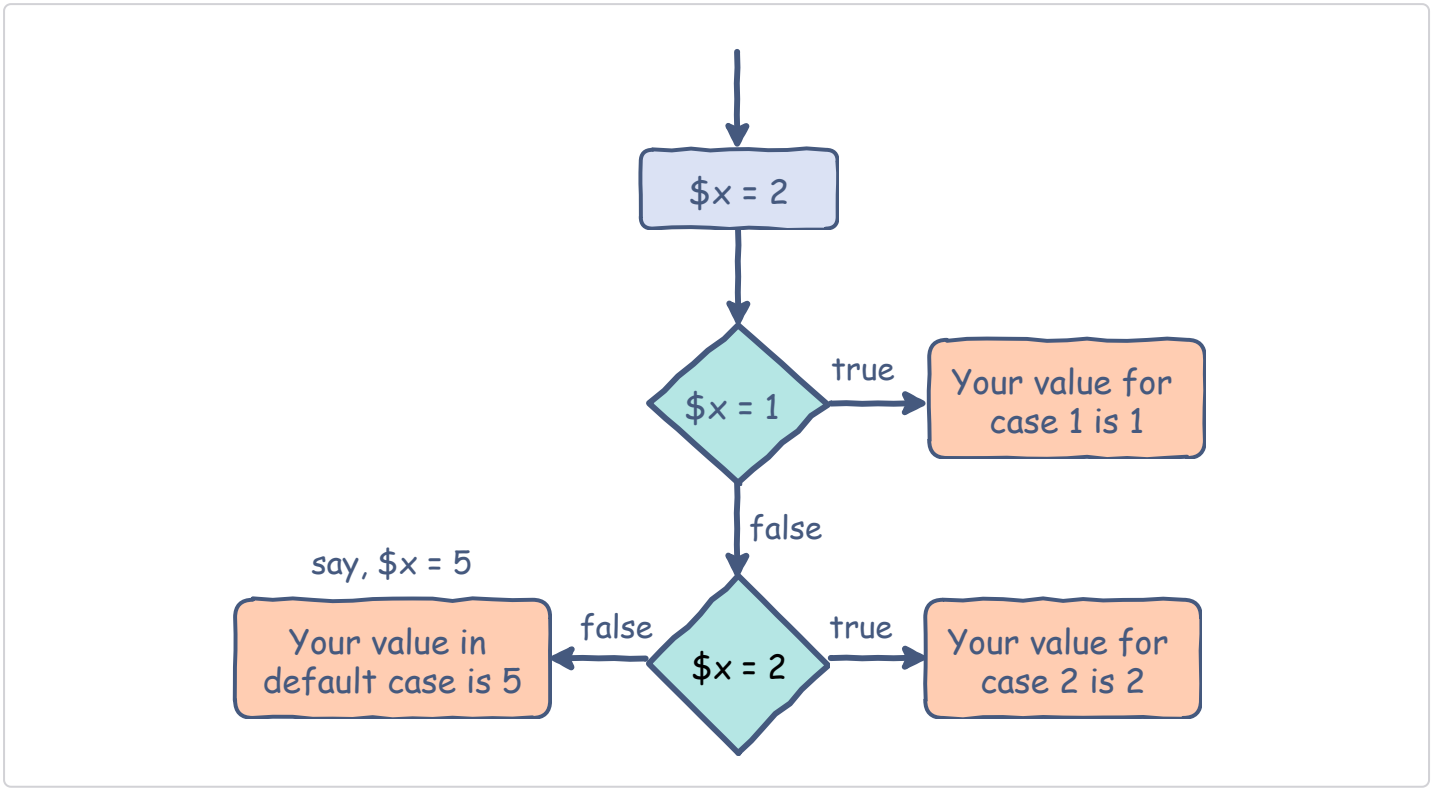
In the code above:

- In **line 3** the value of *variable* `x` is set equal to **2**.
- In **line 5** the `switch` function is called with `x` passed to it as the parameter.
- As seen in **line 9** as the value of `x` is **2**, `case 2` is executed displaying: **Your input for case 2 is: 2** in the console.

You can change the value of `x` in the code above to execute various **switch** cases.

- If the value of `x` is changed to **1** then switch case **1** will execute.
- If the value of `x` is changed to a number other than **1** or **2** then the `default` case will *execute*.

The figure below illustrates how this process happens using a flow chart:



In the next lesson, we will discuss **ternary** *operators*, the syntactic sugar of PHP.