



**echo | print
include | require**

Research

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Echo And Print constructs

Echo and print are built-in functions used to output data on the screen. They both can output text and numbers, but with slight differences.

echo is the preferred construct for the most PHP developer, it is faster and reliable, print constructor is classic and can be used if using the return value is required for some logic conditions.

echo construct

echo is not a function as no parenthesis are required, but it is a language construct. echo can be used to output strings, numbers, variables, values, arrays, values of expressions. Some developers can use parenthesis if they need, it can accept multi parameters and doesn't return any value.

Template syntax: “<?php echo “param1” , “param2”; ?>”

print construct

print construct does the same as the echo construct, but it can take only one parameter, and returns a value of 1.

As the print construct returns a value of 1, it can be used in a conditional expression.

Template syntax: “<?php if (print “param1” == 1) {print “success” ;} ?>”

Include And Require Statements

Include and require are PHP keywords that will copy a file content to another file content.

In PHP, it is possible to write a script once and reuse and combine it as many times as required to another script, without the need to re-write it again.

This can save a huge time of production, as we can create the header, only once and reuse it, same with the footer, or a side menu, and so on.

include statement

This statement is used when we need to re-use a pre-written script, but it is not mandatory required to render the main code.

Therefore, if the included script won't be available for any reason, or a mis-spelled file path, it will not affect the main script, it will be showing a warning only `"E_WARNING"` and it will continue running.

Template syntax: `<?php include('filename.php'); ?>`

require statement

Require has the same purpose of the "include", but with a major critical difference, if the file/script is accidentally missing, the main script will not continue, showing a fatal error `"E_COMPILE_ERROR"`.

This could be important for some tasks, for example when a main script requires a sub-script that generates a sequence of database connection, this sub-script has to be loaded before communicating with the database.

Template syntax: `<?php require('filename.php'); ?>`

REFERENCES

[w3schools.com](https://www.w3schools.com)

[geeksforgeeks.org](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org)

[php.net](https://www.php.net) (echo)

[php.net](https://www.php.net) (print)