

# PHP for Beginners - Session 2

## Tools of the Trade

### 1. Code Editor

Use a powerful editor like PHPStorm (recommended) or a lightweight one like VSCode or Sublime Text. Make sure it supports PHP syntax and auto-completion.

### 2. Terminal

You need a terminal to run commands like `php -v` or `composer -V`. On Mac, use Terminal or iTerm; on Windows, use Windows Terminal or Git Bash.

### 3. Installing PHP and MySQL

- On Mac: use Homebrew

```
brew install php
```

```
brew install mysql
```

- On Windows: use Laragon (recommended), or XAMPP/MAMP. These provide PHP + MySQL in one package.

### 4. Database GUI (Graphical Interface)

Use TablePlus (recommended), or alternatives like phpMyAdmin, DBeaver, or Beekeeper Studio to manage your database easily.

### 5. Composer

Composer is the package manager for PHP. It helps you manage dependencies and enables features like autoloading.

---

Checklist:

- PHP installed (`php -v`)

## PHP for Beginners - Session 2

- Composer installed (composer -V)
- MySQL installed and running
- Code editor ready (PHPStorm or VSCode)
- A database GUI installed (like TablePlus)