

# PHP – Class Constants

PHP allows an identifier in a class to be defined as a "class constant" with a constant value, the one that remains unchanged on a per class basis. To differentiate from a variable or property within class, the name of the constant is not prefixed with the usual "\$" symbol and is defined with the "const" qualifier. Note that a PHP program can also have a global constant created using the **define()** function.


The default visibility of a constant is public, although other modifiers may be used in the definition. The value of a constant must be an expression and not a variable, nor a function call/property. The value of a constant is accessed through the class name using the scope resolution operator. Inside a method though, it can be referred to through **self** variable.

```
class SomeClass {  
    const CONSTANT = 'constant value';  
}  
  
echo SomeClass::CONSTANT;
```

**Constant names are case sensitive.** Conventionally, the names of constants are in upper case.

## Example

This example shows how a Class Constant is defined and accessed –



```
</>  
  
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<?php  
class square {  
    const PI=M_PI;  
    var $side=5;  
    function area() {  
        $area=$this->side**2*self::PI;  
        return $area;  
    }  
}  
  
$s1=new square();  
echo "PI=". square::PI . "\n";
```

```
echo "area=" . $s1->area();  
?>
```

It will produce the following **output** –

```
PI=3.1415926535898  
area=78.539816339745
```

## Class Constant as Expression

In this example, the class constant is assigned an expression –

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```
<?php  
const X= 22;  
const Y=7;  
  
class square {  
    const PI=X/Y;  
    var $side=5;  
    function area() {  
        $area=$this->side**2*self::PI;  
        return $area;  
    }  
}  
$s1=new square();  
echo "PI=" . square::PI . "\n";  
echo "area=" . $s1->area();  
?>
```

It will produce the following **output** –

```
PI=3.1428571428571  
area=78.571428571429
```

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## Class Constant Visibility Modifiers

Take a look at the following example –

```
<?php
class example {
    const X=10;
    private const Y=20;
}
$s1=new example();
echo "public=". example::X. "\n";
echo "private=" . $s1->Y ."\n";
echo "private=" . $example::Y ."\n";
?>
```

It will produce the following **output** –

public=10

PHP Notice: Undefined property: example::\$Y in line 11

private=

PHP Fatal error: Uncaught Error: Cannot access private const example::Y