

PHP Magic Constants

In this tutorial you will learn how to work with PHP magic constants.

What is Magic Constants

In the [PHP constants](#) chapter we've learned how to define and use constants in PHP script.

PHP moreover also provide a set of special predefined constants that change depending on where they are used. These constants are called magic constants. For example, the value of `__LINE__` depends on the line that it's used on in your script.

Magic constants begin with two underscores and end with two underscores. The following section describes some of the most useful magical PHP constants.

`__LINE__`

The `__LINE__` constant returns the current line number of the file, like this:

Example	Run this code »
<pre><?php echo "Line number " . __LINE__ . "
"; // Displays: Line number 2 echo "Line number " . __LINE__ . "
"; // Displays: Line number 3 echo "Line number " . __LINE__ . "
"; // Displays: Line number 4 ?></pre>	

`__FILE__`

The `__FILE__` constant returns full path and name of the PHP file that's being executed. If used inside an [include](#), the name of the included file is returned.

Example	Download
<pre><?php // Displays the absolute path of this file echo "The full path of this file is: " . __FILE__; ?></pre>	

`__DIR__`

The `__DIR__` constant returns the directory of the file. If used inside an include, the directory of the included file is returned. Here's an example:

Example

[Download](#)

```
<?php
// Displays the directory of this file
echo "The directory of this file is: " . __DIR__;
?>
```

__FUNCTION__

The `__FUNCTION__` constant returns the name of the current function.

Example

[Run this code »](#)

```
<?php
function myFunction(){
    echo "The function name is - " . __FUNCTION__;
}
myFunction(); // Displays: The function name is - myFunction
?>
```

__CLASS__

The `__CLASS__` constant returns the name of the current [class](#). Here's an example:

Example

[Run this code »](#)

```
<?php
class MyClass
{
    public function getClass_name(){
        return __CLASS__;
    }
}
$obj = new MyClass();
echo $obj->getClass_name(); // Displays: MyClass
?>
```

__METHOD__

The `__METHOD__` constant returns the name of the current class method.

Example

[Run this code »](#)

```
<?php
class Sample
{
    public function myMethod(){
        echo __METHOD__;
    }
}
$obj = new Sample();
$obj->myMethod(); // Displays: Sample::myMethod
?>
```

__NAMESPACE__

The `__NAMESPACE__` constant returns the name of the current namespace.

Example	Download
<pre><?php namespace MyNamespace; class MyClass { public function getNamespace(){ return __NAMESPACE__; } } \$obj = new MyClass(); echo \$obj->getNamespace(); // Displays: MyNamespace ?></pre>	Download