

```
<?php
$a = 'hello';
?>
```

A variable variable takes the value of a variable and treats that as the name of a variable. In the above example, *hello*, can be used as the name of a variable by using two dollar signs. i.e.

```
<?php
$$a = 'world';
?>
```

At this point two variables have been defined and stored in the PHP symbol tree: `$a` with contents "hello" and `$hello` with contents "world". Therefore, this statement:

```
<?php
echo "$a ${$a}";
?>
```

produces the exact same output as:

```
<?php
echo "$a $hello";
?>
```

i.e. they both produce: hello world.