

# constant

(PHP 4 >= 4.0.4, PHP 5, PHP 7, PHP 8)

constant — Returns the value of a constant

## Description ¶

**constant**(string \$name): [mixed](#)

Return the value of the constant indicated by name.

**constant()** is useful if you need to retrieve the value of a constant, but do not know its name. I.e. it is stored in a variable or returned by a function.

This function works also with [class constants](#).

## Parameters ¶

name

The constant name.

## Return Values ¶

Returns the value of the constant, or **null** if the constant is not defined.

## Errors/Exceptions ¶

An **E\_WARNING** level error is generated if the constant is not defined.

## Examples ¶

### Example #1 constant() example

```
<?php
define("MAXSIZE", 100);

echo MAXSIZE;
echo constant("MAXSIZE"); // same thing as the previous line

interface bar {
    const test = 'foobar!';
}

class foo {
    const test = 'foobar!';
}

$const = 'test';

var_dump(constant('bar::'. $const)); // string(7) "foobar!"
var_dump(constant('foo::'. $const)); // string(7) "foobar!"

?>
```

## See Also ¶

- [define\(\)](#) - Defines a named constant
- [defined\(\)](#) - Checks whether a given named constant exists
- The section on [Constants](#)