The PHP strlen() function returns the length of a string.

The PHP str\_word\_count() function counts the number of words in a string.

The PHP strpos() function searches for a specific text within a string. If a match is found, the function returns the character position of the first match

The htmlspecialchars() function converts special characters to HTML entities. This means that it will replace HTML characters like < and > with &lt; and &gt;.

Strip unnecessary characters (extra space, tab, newline) from the user input data (with the PHP **trim()** function).

Remove backslashes (\) from the user input data (with the PHP **stripslashes()**

function).

The **preg\_match()** function searches a string for pattern, returning true if the pattern exists, and false otherwise.

1. $name = test\_input($\_POST["name"]);

2. if (!preg\_match("/^[a-zA-Z ]\*$/",$name)) {

3. $nameErr = "Only letters and white space allowed";

4. }

5.

The easiest and safest way to check whether an email address is well-formed is to use PHP's **filter\_var()** function.

1. $email = test\_input($\_POST["email"]);

2. if (!filter\_var($email, FILTER\_VALIDATE\_EMAIL)) {

3. $emailErr = "Invalid email format";

4. }

5.