



PHP Include & Require Statement

The **include** or **require** statement takes all the text/code/markup that exists in the specified file and copies it into the file that uses the include statement.

Including files is very useful when you want to include the same PHP, HTML or text on multiple pages of a website.

It is possible to insert the content of one PHP file into another PHP file (before the server executes it), with the include or require statement.

Including files saves a lot of work. This means that you can create a standard header, footer or menu file for all your web pages. Then, when the header needs to be updated, you can only update the header include file.

Syntax of an Include or Require Statement

```
<?php
include '../includes/footer.inc.php';
?>
```

The **include** statement

```
<?php
require '../includes/footer.inc.php';
?>
```

The **require** statement

PHP include vs. require

The require statement is also used to include a file into the PHP code. However, there is one big difference between include and require; when a file is included with the include statement and PHP cannot find it, the script will continue to execute:

NB: use “require” when the file is required by the application and use “include” when the file is not required and application should continue when file is not found.