**Access modifiers: public vs. private**

Public access modifier allows a code from outside or inside the class to access the class’s methods and properties, the private modifier prevents access to a class’s methods or properties from any code that is outside the class.

**The public access modifier**

class Car {

// Public methods and properties

public $model;

public function getModel()

{

return "The car model is " . $this -> model;

}

}

$mercedes = new Car();

// Here we access a property from outside the class

$mercedes -> model = "Mercedes";

// Here again we access another method from outside the class

echo $mercedes -> getModel();

Result:

The car model is Mercedes

**The private access modifier**

Class Car {

// Private

private $model;

public function getModel()

{

return "The car model is " . $this -> model;

}

}

$mercedes = new Car();

// We try to access a private property from outside the class.

$mercedes -> model = "Mercedes";

echo $mercedes -> getModel();

Result:

Fatal error: Cannot access private property Car::$model

**How to access a private property?**

Setters that set the values of the private properties.

Getters that get the values of the private properties.

class Car {

// The private access modifier denies access to the method

// from outside the class’s scope

private $model;

// The public access modifier allows the access to the method

// from outside the class

public function setModel($model)

{

$this -> model = $model;

}

public function getModel()

{

return "The car model is " . $this -> model;

}

}

$mercedes = new Car();

// Set the car’s model

$mercedes -> setModel("Mercedes");

// Get the car’s model

echo $mercedes -> getModel();

Result:

The car model is Mercedes