Functions 1

What Benefits?

- They do a job for us
- Save us writing code
- Enable us to reuse code
  - Smaller code base
  - Less cutting and pasting

Function – Syntax

- We also get functions which are called block functions, and look like this
  - while ($x < 10) {
    print $x;
    $x++;
    }
- The syntax can be read in a similar way.

Aims

- Understand what a function is
- What it does
- What it's benefit is

Is it a function, method or subroutine?

- All 3.
- Purists might tell you that there are differences, but it is mostly contextual.
- We will look at calling them by a term appropriate to context, but in code terms, they are all the same.
- So don't worry about it!

Functions

- Don't worry if you feel a little lost at the moment, it will come clear as we look at different functions.
- Common functions that we will come across include
  - open, close, if, next, last, foreach
  - while, until, unless, else ...

What is a Function?

- Functions are the verbs in statements
- These are sometimes referred to as keywords as they are part of core Perl
- They do something with some given inputs, and return out some outputs

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Function – Syntax

- We used a function already, print
  - print 'Hello World!';
- The simplest description of a function syntax would be
  return_value = function (list_of_parameters);
- Whilst the return value has been left out, it is the same.