

Here are some common PHP interview questions for freshers along with sample answers:

* 1. **What is PHP?**

PHP (Hypertext Preprocessor) is a widely-used open-source server-side scripting language designed for web development. It is embedded in HTML and is used to create dynamic content on websites. PHP scripts are executed on the server, and it supports databases like MySQL, PostgreSQL, etc. Created in 1994 by [Rasmus Lerdorf](#),

* 2. **What is the difference between `echo` and `print` in PHP?**

- `echo`: It can output one or more strings, and it doesn't return any value. It is slightly faster than `print`.
- `print`: It outputs a single string and returns a value of 1, so it can be used in expressions.

`print_r()`---print array

`var_dump()`----provides more detailed output

* 3. **What are variables in PHP, and how do you declare them?**

Variables in PHP are used to store data

and are declared using the `\$` symbol. They do not need to be explicitly declared with a data type. For example:

```
```php
```

```
$name = "John";
```

```
$age = 25;
...
```

#### \* 4. **What are PHP data types?**

PHP supports different data types, including:

- **String**: Represents a sequence of characters. e.g., `"Hello"`
- **Integer**: Represents whole numbers. e.g., `123`
- **Float**: Represents numbers with decimal points. e.g., `10.5`
- **Boolean**: Represents true or false values. e.g., `true`, `false`
- **Array**: Stores multiple values in a single variable. e.g., `array(1, 2, 3)`
- **Object**: Used to store objects.
- **NULL**: Represents a variable with no value.

#### \* 5. **What is a session in PHP, and why is it used?**

A session in PHP is a way to store information (in variables) to be used across multiple pages. Unlike cookies, which are stored on the client side, session data is stored on the server. Sessions are typically used for user authentication, shopping carts, etc.

#### \* 6. **Explain `include` and `require` in PHP. What is the difference between them?**

Both `include` and `require` are used to include files in PHP. The difference is:

- `include`: If the file is not found, a warning is shown, but the script will continue execution.

- ``require``: If the file is not found, a fatal error occurs, and the script stops execution.

#### \* 7. \*\*How do you connect to a MySQL database using PHP?\*\*

You can connect to a MySQL database using the ``mysqli_connect()`` function:

```
```php
$conn = mysqli_connect("localhost", "username", "password",
"database_name");
if (!$conn) {
    die("Connection failed: " . mysqli_connect_error());
}
```
```

#### \* 8. \*\*What is the difference between GET and POST methods in PHP?\*\*

- **GET**: Sends data via the URL. It has a size limitation (about 2048 characters) and is less secure since the data is exposed in the URL.
- **POST**: Sends data through the HTTP request body, making it more secure. There is no size limit, and it is commonly used for form submissions where sensitive information is involved.

#### \* 9. \*\*What are cookies in PHP?\*\*

Cookies are small files stored on the client's computer that can hold data and are sent with every HTTP request to the server.

They are used to store user-specific data like preferences or login information.

```
setcookie(name, value, expire, path, domain,
secure, httponly);
```

- 

```
setcookie("user", "JohnDoe", time() + 3600, "/");
setcookie("user", "", time() - 3600, "/"); // Expire 1 hour ago
```

**\* 10. \*\*What is an array in PHP? Explain different types of arrays.\*\***

An array is a variable that can hold multiple values. PHP supports three types of arrays:

- **\*\*Indexed arrays\*\***: Arrays with a numeric index. e.g., ``$arr = array(1, 2, 3);``  
``$arr = [1,2,3];``
- **\*\*Associative arrays\*\***: Arrays with named keys. e.g., ``$arr = array("name" => "John", "age" => 25);``
- **\*\*Multidimensional arrays\*\***: Arrays containing one or more arrays. e.g., ``$arr = array(array(1, 2), array(3, 4));``

**\* 11. \*\*What is the use of ``isset()`` and ``unset()`` in PHP?\*\***

- ``isset()``: Checks if a variable is set and is not ``NULL``. Returns ``true`` if the variable exists and has a value.

- ``unset()``: Destroys a variable, meaning it is no longer accessible.

## \* 12. **\*\*What is `PDO` in PHP?\*\***

PDO (PHP Data Objects) is a database access layer providing a uniform method of access to multiple databases. PDO supports different databases like MySQL, PostgreSQL, and SQLite. It provides a safer way to interact with databases using prepared statements, which protect against SQL injection.

## \* 13. **\*\*What are constructors and destructors in PHP?\*\***

- **\*\*Constructor\*\***: A special function called when an object is instantiated. It is typically used to initialize the object's properties. It is declared using the ``__construct()`` method.
- **\*\*Destructor\*\***: A special function called when an object is destroyed. It is declared using the ``__destruct()`` method.

## \* 15. **\*\*What is `json\_encode()` and `json\_decode()` in PHP?\*\***

- ``json_encode()``: Converts a PHP array or object into a JSON string.
- ``json_decode()``: Converts a JSON string into a PHP object or array.

These answers provide a solid foundation for a fresher PHP interview.