

tf.keras.backend.placeholder

```
placeholder(  
    shape=None,  
    ndim=None,  
    dtype=None,  
    sparse=False,  
    name=None  
)
```

Defined in [tensorflow/python/keras/_impl/keras/backend.py](#).

Instantiates a placeholder tensor and returns it.

Arguments:

- **shape**: Shape of the placeholder (integer tuple, may include **None** entries).
- **ndim**: Number of axes of the tensor. At least one of { **shape**, **ndim** } must be specified. If both are specified, **shape** is used.
- **dtype**: Placeholder type.
- **sparse**: Boolean, whether the placeholder should have a sparse type.
- **name**: Optional name string for the placeholder.

Returns:

Tensor instance (with Keras metadata included).

Examples:

```
>>> from keras import backend as K  
>>> input_ph = K.placeholder(shape=(2, 4, 5))  
>>> input_ph  
<tf.Tensor 'Placeholder_4:0' shape=(2, 4, 5) dtype=float32>
```

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Last updated November 2, 2017.

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