[root@localhost ~]# echo "$abc"

123

[root@localhost ~]# echo '$abc'

$abc

Single quotes won't interpolate anything, but double quotes will (for example variables, backticks, certain \ escapes, etc...)

[root@localhost amd64-linux]# echo '\\abc'

\\abc

[root@localhost amd64-linux]# echo "\\abc"

\abc

[root@localhost amd64-linux]#