

## PHP String Functions and Regular Expressions

<http://php.net/ref.strings>

Functions marked ✪ are used most frequently.

### Basic string functions:

<code>explode</code>	✪	Split a string based on another string
<code>implode</code>	✪	Join array elements with a string
<code>strlen</code>	✪	Get string length

### Search and compare:

<code>strcasecmp</code>		Binary safe case-insensitive string comparison
<code>strcmp</code>		Binary safe string comparison
<code>strrchr</code>		Find the last occurrence of a character in a string
<code>strpos</code>	✪	Find the position of the first occurrence of a substring in a string
<code>strstr</code>	✪	Find the first occurrence of a string
<code>strchr</code>	✪	Find the first occurrence of a character (same as <code>strstr</code> )
<code>preg_match</code>		Search using regular expressions (see regular expression reference below)

### Formatting strings:

<code>lcfirst</code>		Make a string's first character lowercase
<code>money_format</code>		Formats a number as a currency string
<code>number_format</code>		Format a number with grouped thousands
<code>printf</code>	✪	Output a formatted string (see formatting options below)
<code>sprintf</code>		Return a formatted string (see formatting options below)
<code>strip_tags</code>		Strip HTML and PHP tags from a string
<code>strtolower</code>	✪	Make a string lowercase
<code>strtoupper</code>	✪	Make a string uppercase
<code>trim</code>	✪	Strip whitespace (or other characters) from the beginning and end of a string
<code>ucfirst</code>		Make a string's first character uppercase
<code>ucwords</code>		Uppercase the first character of each word in a string

### Working with forms:

<code>html_entity_decode</code>		Convert all HTML entities to their applicable characters
<code>htmlentities</code>		Convert all applicable characters to HTML entities
<code>htmlspecialchars</code>		Convert special characters to HTML entities

### Finding similar or sound-alike strings:

<code>levenshtein</code>		Calculate Levenshtein distance between two strings
<code>metaphone</code>		Calculate the metaphone key of a string
<code>similar_text</code>		Calculate the similarity between two strings
<code>soundex</code>		Calculate the soundex key of a string
<code>str_replace</code>	✖	Replace all occurrences of the search string with the replacement string
<code>substr</code>	✖	Return part of a string

### Special purpose:

<code>md5</code>		Calculate the md5 hash of a string
<code>str_getcsv</code>		Parse a CSV string into an array
<code>str_rot13</code>		Perform the rot13 transform on a string
<code>str_shuffle</code>		Randomly shuffles a string
<code>str_split</code>		Convert a string to an array
<code>strrev</code>		Reverse a string

## printf and sprintf Type Specifiers

<http://php.net/manual/en/function.sprintf.php>

Specifier	Presentation	Data Type
%%	A literal percent character	(None)
%b	Binary number	Integer
%c	Character with that ASCII value	Integer
%d	Signed decimal number	Integer
%e	Scientific/Exponential notation, e.g. 1.2e+2	Floating point
%E	Same as %e but upper case, e.g. 1.2E+2	Floating point
%f	Floating point number, locale-aware	Floating point
%F	Floating point number, non-locale aware	Floating point
%g	Short of %e and %f	Floating point
%G	Short of %E and %f	Floating point
%o	Octal number	Integer
%s	String	String
%u	Unsigned decimal number	Integer
%x	Hexadecimal number with lowercase letters	Integer
%X	Hexadecimal number with uppercase letters	Integer

## Regular Expressions Quick Reference

Perl-compatible regular expressions: <http://php.net/manual/en/ref.pcre.php>

Preg-match function: <http://php.net/manual/en/function.preg-match.php>

[abc]	A single character: a, b or c
[^abc]	Any single character but a, b, or c
[a-z]	Any single character in the range a-z
[a-zA-Z]	Any single character in the range a-z or A-Z
^	Start of line
\$	End of line
\A	Start of string
\z	End of string
.	Any single character
\s	Any whitespace character
\S	Any non-whitespace character
\d	Any digit
\D	Any non-digit
\w	Any word character (letter, number, underscore)
\W	Any non-word character
\b	Any word boundary character
(...)	Capture everything enclosed
(a b)	a or b
a?	Zero or one of a
a*	Zero or more of a
a+	One or more of a
a{3}	Exactly 3 of a
a{3,}	3 or more of a
a{3,6}	Between 3 and 6 of a