

## PHP Syntax

In PHP, the script is executed on the server, and the plain HTML result is sent back to the browser. The PHP syntax and semantics are the format (*syntax*) and the related meanings (*semantics*) of the text and symbols in the PHP programming language. They form a set of rules that define how a PHP program can be written and interpreted. The PHP processor only parses code within its delimiters (the trigger symbols). Anything outside its delimiters is sent directly to the output and not parsed by PHP. There are 4 ways of including PHP in a web page.

### Method 1:

```
<?php echo("Hello world"); ?>
```

This method is clear and unambiguous.

### Method 2:

```
<script language = "php">
echo("Hello world");
</script>
```

This method is useful in environments supporting mixed scripting languages in the same HTML file (*most do not*).

### Method 3:

```
<? echo("Hello world"); ?>
```

Another short opening tags (<?=>) are also available for use. This method depends on the server configuration.

### Method 4:

```
<% echo("Hello world"); %>
```

Another short opening tags (<%=>) are also available for use. This method depends on the server configuration.

We can also use `print` instead of `echo` in the above methods. Both functions are nearly identical; the major difference being that `print` is slower than `echo` because the former will return a status indicating if it was successful or not in addition to text to output, whereas the latter does not return a status and only returns the text for output.