

# PHP - Comments

A comment in any computer program (such as a PHP program) is a certain explanatory text that is ignored by the language compiler/interpreter. Its purpose is to help the user understand the logic used in the program algorithm.

Although placing comments in the code is not essential, it is a highly recommended practice. The comments also serve as program documentation. Comments are also useful when the code needs to be debugged and modified.

There are two commenting formats in PHP –

- Single-line Comments
- Multi-line Comments

## Single-line Comments

They are generally used for short explanations or notes relevant to the local code. PHP uses two notations for inserting a single-line comment in a program.

### Single-line Comments Using "#"

A line in PHP code starting with the "#" symbol is treated as a single-line comment.

```
<?php
# Single line comment starting with # symbol
echo 'Hello World';
?>
```

### Single-line Comments Using "//"

PHP also supports C style of single-line comments with "//" symbol. A line starting with double oblique symbol is treated as a comment.

```
<?php
// Single line comment starting with // symbol
echo 'Hello World';
?>
```



A comment that starts with the symbol "#" or "://" need not be closed. The effect of these symbols last till the end of the physical line.

In other words, the PHP parser will treat the next line as a PHP statement and not as a comment even if there is no closing comment marker.

## Multi-line Comments

Multi-line comments are generally used to provide pseudocode algorithms and more detailed explanations when necessary.

The multiline style of commenting is the same as in C. One or more lines embedded inside the "/\*" and "\*/" symbols are treated as a comment.

## Example of Multi-line Comment in PHP

Here is the example of a multi-line comment.

```
<?php

/* This is a multiline comment example
program to add two numbers
Variables used - $x for first number,
$y for second number */

$x=10;
$y=20;
print "Total = ". $x+$y;

?>
```

Note that you can put even a single line inside the "/\* .. \*/" symbols. However, if there is a "/\*" symbol in the program, it must have a closing end-of comment marker "\*/". If not, an error will be displayed as follows –

```
PHP Parse error: Unterminated comment starting line 3 in /home/cg/root/65dec
```