

# PHP Syntax

The PHP parsing engine needs a way to differentiate PHP code from other elements in the page. There are four ways –

## 1. Canonical PHP tags

The most universally effective PHP tag style is –

```
<?php...?>
```

If these tags are being used then it is sure that these tags will always be correctly interpreted.

## 2. Short-open (SGML-style) tags

Short or short-open tags look like this –

```
<?...?>
```

Short tags are, as one might expect, the shortest option. There are two steps to do to enable PHP to recognize these tags –

1. Choose the `--enable-short-tags` configuration option on server when we're building PHP.
2. Set the short open tag setting in `php.ini` file to `on`. This option must be disabled to parse XML with PHP because the same syntax is used for XML tags.

## 3. ASP-style tags

ASP-style tags mimic the tags used by Active Server Pages to describe code blocks. ASP-style tags look like this –

```
<%...%>
```

To use ASP-style tags, you will need to set the configuration option in your `php.ini` file.

## 4. HTML script tags

HTML script tags look like this –

```
<script language = "PHP">...</script>
```

# Commenting in PHP Code

A comment is the portion of a program that exists only for the human reader and stripped out before displaying the programs result. There are two commenting formats in PHP –

**Single-line comments** – They are generally used for short explanations or notes. Here are the examples of single line comments.

```
<?
# This is a comment, and
# This is the second line of the comment

// This is a comment too. Each style comments only
print "An example with single line comments";
?>
```

**Multi-lines comments** – They are generally used to provide more detailed explanations when necessary. The multiline style of commenting is the same as in C. Here are the example of multi lines comments.

```
<?
/* This is a comment with multiline
  Author : Mohammad Mohtashim
  Purpose: Multiline Comments Demo
  Subject: PHP
*/
print "An example with multi line comments";
?>
```

```
2; // multiple lines
```

## PHP is case sensitive

PHP is a case sensitive language. Try out following example –

Live Demo

```
<html>
<body>

  <?php
    $capital = 67;
    print("Variable capital is $capital<br>");
    print("Variable CaPiTaL is $CaPiTaL<br>");
  ?>

</body>
</html>
```

### Output-

Variable capital is 67

Variable CaPiTaL is