

Constant

A constant is a name or an identifier for a simple value. A constant value **cannot change during the execution** of the script. By default, a constant is case-sensitive. By convention, constant identifiers are always uppercase. A constant name starts with a letter or underscore, followed by any number of letters, numbers, or underscores. If you have defined a constant, it can never be changed.

To define a constant you have to use **define()** function and to retrieve the value of a constant, you have to simply specifying its name. Unlike with variables, you do not need to have a constant with a **\$**.

constant example

```
<?php
    define("MINSIZE", 50);
    echo MINSIZE;
    echo constant("MINSIZE"); // same thing as the previous line
?>
```

Differences between constants and variables are

1. There is no need to write a dollar sign (\$) before a constant, where as in Variable one has to write a dollar sign.
2. Constants cannot be defined by simple assignment, they may only be defined using the define() function.
3. Constants may be defined and accessed anywhere without regard to variable scoping rules.
4. Once the Constants have been set, may not be redefined or undefined.

Valid and invalid constant names

// Valid constant names

```
define("ONE", "first thing");
define("TWO2", "second thing");
define("THREE_3", "third thing");
define("__THREE__", "third value");
```

// Invalid constant names

```
define("2TWO", "second thing");
```