PHP htmlspecialchars_decode() Function

Topics : PHP Functions
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PHP htmlspecialchars_decode() Function converts the predefined HTML entities back to characters.

A predefined HTML entities are given as below.

1. & will be converted to & (ampersand).
2. " will be converted to " (double quote).
3. ' will be converted to ' (single quote).
4. < will be converted to < (less than).
5. > will be converted to > (greater than).

Syntax :

htmlspecialchars_decode(string,flags)

Parameter,

string : Required. Input the string to decode.
flags : Optional. It specifies how to handle quotes and which document type to use. The default is ENT_COMPAT | ENT_HTML401.

Available flags constants are given as below.

- **ENT_COMPAT**- It will convert double-quotes and leave single-quotes alone.
- **ENT_QUOTES** - It will convert both double and single quotes.
- **ENT_NOQUOTES**- It will leave both double and single quotes unconverted.
- **ENT_HTML401** - It handles code as HTML 4.01.
- **ENT_XML1** - It handles code as XML 1.
- **ENT_XHTML -** It handles code as XHTML.
- **ENT_HTML5** - It handles code as HTML 5.

A htmlspecialchars_decode() returns decoded string.

Let's see below example to understand php htmlspecialchars_decode() Function in details.

Example :

```
<br><b>The browser output of the above code as below.</b>
<?php
echo "<br><br><b>Converts &amp;amp; to characters </b>";
```

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```
$str = "Learn PHP &amp;amp; HTML";
echo "<br>".htmlspecialchars_decode($str);
echo "<br><br><b>Converts &amp;quot; to characters </b>";
$str = 'Online tutorial is available for &amp;quot;php&amp;quot;';
echo "<br>".htmlspecialchars_decode($str);
echo "<br><br><b>Converts &amp;#039; to characters </b>";
$str = "Online tutorial is available for &amp;#039;php&amp;#039;";
echo "<br>".htmlspecialchars_decode($str);
echo "<br><br><b>Converts &amp;lt; and &amp;gt; to characters </b>";
$str = "&amp;lt;a href='https://www.aryatechno.com/blog.html'&amp;gt;Learn online tutorials&amp;lt;/a&amp;gt;";
echo "<br>".htmlspecialchars_decode($str);

?>
```

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