

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; to characters </b>";
```

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