

# PHP Magic Constants

Topics : [PHP](#)

Written on [January 16, 2021](#)

Magic constants are the predefined constants in PHP which is changed depending on where they are used. They start with double underscore (\_\_) and ends with double underscore.

These constants are created by various extensions. There are nine magic constant in the PHP and all of the constant resolved at the compile-time and the regular constant which is resolved at run time.

## PHP's magic constants

All of the constants are resolved at compile-time instead of run time unlike the regular constant.

Magic constants are case-insensitive.

*List of PHP's magic constants*

| Name             | Description   |
|------------------|---|
| __LINE__         | It returns the current line number of the file  |
| __FILE__         | It returns the full path and filename of the executed file. If it is used inside the include, the name of the included file is returned.  |
| __DIR__          | It returns the directory of the file. If it is used inside an include, the directory of the included file is returned. This is equivalent to <code>dirname(__FILE__)</code> . This directory name does not have a trailing slash unless it is the root directory. |
| __FUNCTION__     | It returns the function name where this constant is used. It will return blank if it is used outside of any function.   |
| __CLASS__        | It returns the class name. The class name includes the namespace if it was declared in (e.g. <code>Pack\Clas</code> ). When used in a trait method, <code>__CLASS__</code> is the name of the class the trait is used in.   |
| __TRAIT__        | It returns the trait name. The trait name includes the namespace if it was declared in (e.g. <code>Pack\Clas</code> ).  |
| METHOD__         | It returns the class method name.   |
| __NAMESPACE__    | It returns the name of the current namespace.   |
| ClassName::class | It does not start and end with the double underscore (__). It returns the fully qualified name of the ClassName. It is useful with namespaced classes.  |

#### **PHP Code Example for \_\_LINE\_\_:**

```
<?php
    echo "Printing at line number " . __LINE__ . "<br>";
?>
```

#### **Output:**

Printing at line number 2

#### **PHP Code Example for \_\_FILE\_\_:**

```
<?php
    echo "Print full path of file : " . __FILE__ . "<br>";
?>
```

#### **Output:**

Print full path of file : E:\xampp\htdocs\phptraining\magic\_constant.php

#### **PHP Code Example for \_\_DIR\_\_:**

```
<?php
    echo "Print full path of directory : " . __DIR__ . "<br>";
?>
```

#### **Output:**

Print full path of directory : E:\xampp\htdocs\phptraining

#### **PHP Code Example for \_\_FUNCTION\_\_:**

```
<?php
    //Using magic constant inside function.
    function get_func(){
        echo 'The function name is ' . __FUNCTION__ . "<br>";
    }
    get_func();

?>
```

#### **Output:**

The function name is get\_func

### PHP Code Example for \_\_CLASS\_\_:

```
<?php
//Get Class name using magic constant __CLASS__
class ARYATECHNO
{
    public function __construct() { }
    function getClass_name(){
        echo "Class name is ".__CLASS__ . "<br>";
    }
}
$obj = new ARYATECHNO;
$obj->getClass_name();
?>
```

#### Output:

Class name is ARYATECHNO

### PHP Code Example for \_\_TRAIT\_\_:

```
<?php
//prints name of the trait
trait get_Trait {
    function print_trait(){
        echo "Name of the trait :".__TRAIT__ . "<br>";
    }
}
class ARYATECH {
    use get_Trait;
}
$obj = new ARYATECH;
$obj->print_trait();
?>
```

#### Output:

Name of the trait :get\_Trait

### PHP Code Example for \_\_METHOD\_\_:

```
<?php
//Get method name using magic constants
class MAGIC {
    public function __construct() {

        echo "Method name is ".__METHOD__ . "<br>";
    }
    public function get_method(){

        echo "Method name is ".__METHOD__."<br>";
    }
}
$obj = new MAGIC;
$obj->get_method();
?>
```

**Output:**

Method name is MAGIC::\_\_construct

Method name is MAGIC::get\_method

**PHP Code Example for \_\_NAMESPACE\_\_ :**

```
<?php
namespace PHPCODE;
//Get namespace name using magic constants

class package {
    public function __construct() {
        echo 'Namespace name is '.__NAMESPACE__."<br>";
    }
}

$obj = new package;
?>
```

**Output:**

Namespace name is PHPCODE

**PHP Code Example for CLASSNAME::CLASS:**

```
<?php
class CLASSA{
}
echo "Get class name : ".CLASSA::class."<br>";
?>
```

**Output:**

Get class name : PHPCODE\CLASSA

**Output :**