

# PHP Comparison Operators Quick Reference Card

## Comparison Operators

Operator	Name	Result
<code>\$a == \$b</code>	Equal	TRUE if \$a is equal to \$b.
<code>\$a === \$b</code>	Identical	TRUE if \$a is equal to \$b, and they are of the same type. Useful for String comparisons if( <code>\$a=== "string"</code> )
<code>\$a != \$b</code>	Not Equal	TRUE if \$a is not equal to \$b.
<code>\$a &lt;&gt; \$b</code>	Not Equal	TRUE if \$a is not equal to \$b.
<code>\$a !== \$b</code>	Not Identical	TRUE if \$a is not equal to \$b, or they are not of the same type. Useful for String comparisons if( <code>\$a!== "string"</code> )
<code>\$a &lt; \$b</code>	Less Than	TRUE if \$a is strictly less than \$b.
<code>\$a &gt; \$b</code>	Greater Than	TRUE if \$a is strictly greater than \$b.
<code>\$a &lt;= \$b</code>	Less Than or Equal to	TRUE if \$a is less than or equal to \$b.
<code>\$a &gt;= \$b</code>	Greater Than or Equal to	TRUE if \$a is greater than or equal to \$b.

## Comparison with Various Types

Operand 1	Operand 2	Result
Null or String	String	Convert NULL to "", numerical or lexical comparison
Bool or Null	Anything	Convert to bool, FALSE < TRUE
Object	Object	Built-in classes can define its own comparison, different classes are incomparable, same class - compare properties the same way as arrays (PHP 4), PHP 5 lets you define your own comparison mechanism.
String, Resource or Number	String, Resource or Number	Translate strings and resources to numbers, usual math
Array	Array	Array with fewer members is smaller, if key from operand 1 is not found in operand 2 then arrays are incomparable, otherwise - compare value by value
Array	Anything	Array is always greater.
Object	Anything	Object is always greater.