

## PHP – = VS. == VS. ===

### ASSIGNMENT OPERATOR =

A single equals sign = is the basic assignment operator in **PHP**.

Don't think this sign as “**equal to**”. The variable on left side of = gets set to the value of the expression on the rights.

It is used to set a variable equal to a value or set a variable to another variable's value.

*EXAMPLE =*

```
<?php

$a = 123; //assigned 123 to variable $a

$b = $a; // assigned $a

?>
```

In above example **\$a** and **\$b** has the same value **123**.

### EQUAL OPERATOR ==

The double equals sign == is a comparison operator called **Equal Operator**, it accepts two inputs to compare and return **true** if the values are same and return **false** if values are not same. Keep in mind that the equality operator == is different than the assignment operator =.

The assignment operator changes the variable on the left to have a new value, while the equal operator == tests for equality and returns true or false.

*EXAMPLE ==*

```
<?php

$a = 123; //php integer

$b = '123'; //php string

if ($a == $b) {
```

```
echo 'Values are same';

}

else {

echo 'Values are not same';

}

?>
```

The above example prints **Values are same**.

## IDENTICAL OPERATOR ===

Identical operator === allows for stricter comparison between variables. It only returns true if the two variables or values being compared hold the same information and are of the same data type.

### *EXAMPLE* ===

```
<?php

$a = 123; //php integer

$b = '123'; //php string

if ($a === $b) {

echo 'Values and types are same';

}

else {

echo 'Values and types are not same';

}
```

```
?>
```

The above example prints Values and types are not same because **\$a** data type is an integer and **\$b** data type is string, and these data types are not same, **===** compares two things values and type, failure in one returns the false result.

Note always remember that **Equal** and **Identical** operators are not the same thing. Identical matches both a variable's value and datatype, whereas equal matches only value.