

What is the difference between =, == and ===?

In the PHP programming language, the operators =, ==, and === have the following distinctions:

1. `=` (assignment):

- * Used to assign a value to a variable.

- * Example: ``$a = 10;`` - this assigns the value ``10`` to the variable ``$a``.

2. `==` (value comparison):

- * Compares the values of two expressions and returns ``true`` if they are equal after type coercion, and ``false`` otherwise.

- * Example: ``$a == $b`` - this compares the values of the variables ``$a and $b``.

3. `===` (strict comparison):

- * This is a strict comparison operator that considers both the values and types of the operands.

- * Returns ``true`` if both the values and types of the operands are identical, and ``false`` otherwise.

- * Example: ``$a === $b`` - this is a strict comparison of the values and types of the variables ``$a and $b``.

```
$a = 5; // assignment  
$b = "5";
```

```
var_dump($a == $b); // true, because values are equal (non-strict comparison)  
var_dump($a === $b); // false, because values are different or types are different (strict comparison)
```

In PHP, ``==`` may perform automatic type coercion during comparison, while ``===`` uses strict comparison without automatic type coercion.