

# Expression

An expression is a group of symbols that represent a value.

In programming, an expression is any legal combination of symbols that represents a value. Each programming language and [application](#) has its own rules for what is legal and illegal. For example, in the C language  $x+5$  is an expression, as is the character [string](#) "MONKEYS".

Every expression consists of at least one operand and can have one or more operators. [Operands](#) are values, whereas [operators](#) are symbols that represent particular actions. In the expression

```
x + 5
```

$x$  and  $5$  are operands, and  $+$  is an operator.

Expressions are used in programming languages, [database](#) systems, and spreadsheet applications. For example, in database systems, you use expressions to specify which information you want to see. These types of expressions are called [queries](#).

Expressions are often classified by the type of value that they represent. For example:

- **Boolean expressions:** Evaluate to either TRUE or FALSE
- **Integer expressions:** Evaluate to whole numbers, like 3 or 100
- **Floating-point expressions:** Evaluate to real numbers, like 3.141 or -0.005
- **String expressions:** Evaluate to character strings

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