

# PERL DEFINED FUNCTION

[http://www.tutorialspoint.com/perl/perl\\_defined.htm](http://www.tutorialspoint.com/perl/perl_defined.htm)

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## Description

This function returns true if *EXPR* has a value other than the undef value, or checks the value of `$_` if *EXPR* is not specified. This can be used with many functions to detect a failure in operation, since they return undef if there was a problem. A simple Boolean test does not differentiate between false, zero, an empty string, or the string `.0.`, which are all equally false.

If *EXPR* is a function or function reference, then it returns true if the function has been defined. When used with entire arrays and hashes, it will not always produce intuitive results. If a hash element is specified, it returns true if the corresponding value has been defined, but does not determine whether the specified key exists in the hash.

## Syntax

Following is the simple syntax for this function –

```
defined EXPR  
  
defined
```

## Return Value

This function returns 0 if *EXPR* contains undef and 1 if *EXPR* contains a valid value or reference.

## Example

Following is the example code showing its basic usage –

```
#!/usr/bin/perl  
  
$var1 = "This is defined";  
  
if( defined($var1) ){  
    print "$var1\n";  
}  
if( defined($var2) ){  
    print "var2 is also defined\n";  
}else{  
    print "var2 is not defined\n";  
}
```

When above code is executed, it produces the following result –

```
This is defined  
var2 is not defined
```