

# 10\* useful WordPress functions

\*maybe more

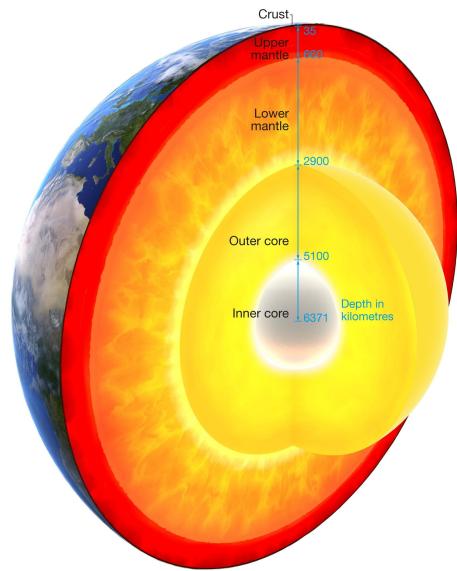
@jubstuff ~ [borzacchiello.it](http://borzacchiello.it)  
developer @ **DRIVEK**

A dark, moody photograph of a group of men in a bar. In the foreground, a shirtless man with a cigarette in his mouth looks down. Behind him, several other men are visible, some with their hands on their hips. The lighting is low, creating a gritty atmosphere.

The #1 rule of  
WordPress  
development

# DON'T TOUCH THE CORE

too hot!



# The core

[`/wp-admin`](#)

Functions and templates to  
bootstrap the WordPress admin.

[`/wp-includes`](#)

Most WordPress functionality is here.

# DON'T TOUCH THE CORE

... but you can read it!

# checked()

Compares the first two arguments  
and if identical marks as checked.

# checked()

```
<input name="my_control" type="radio"
value="my_value"
<?php
echo ($value === 'my_value') ?
'checked="checked"' :
' ' ?> >
```

# checked()

```
<input name="my_control" type="radio"
value="my_value"
<?php checked( 'my_value', $value ); ?> >
```

## `selected()`

Compares the first two arguments and if identical marks as selected.

## `disabled()`

Compares the first two arguments and if identical marks as disabled.

esc\_\*

Escaping functions.

?

# esc\_\*()

Escaping functions.

< becomes &lt;

# `esc_*`()

- `esc_sql`
- `esc_url`
- `esc_url_raw`
- `esc_js`
- `esc_html`
- `esc_attr`
- `esc_textarea`

# Example: esc\_attr()

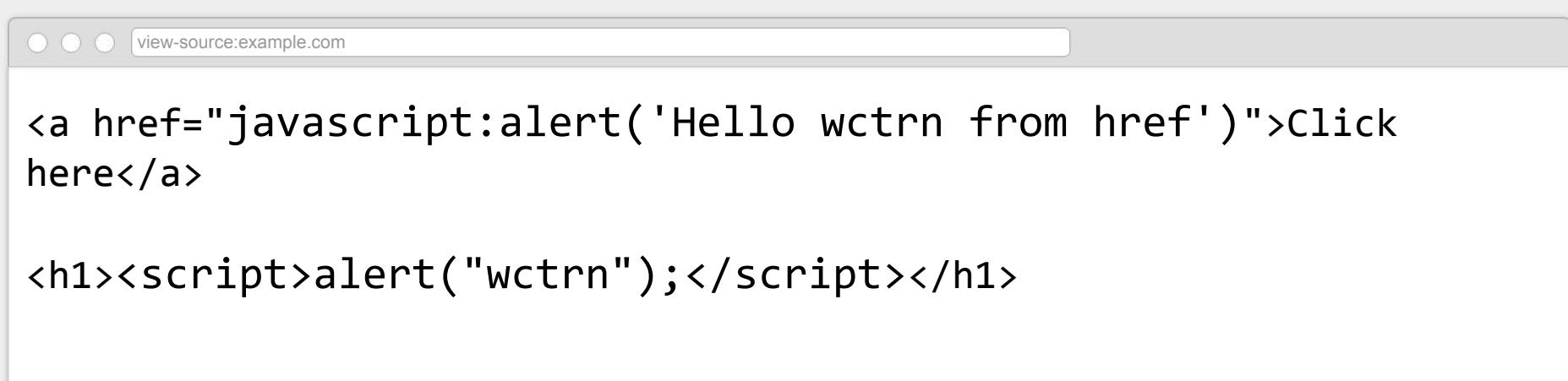
```
<?php // Fictional malicious input...
$href = "javascript:alert('Hello wctrn from href')";
$title = '<script>alert("wctrn");</script>';

// ...and displaying it ?>
<a href="<?php echo $href; ?>">Click here</a>
<h1><?php echo $title; ?></h1>
```

# Example: esc\_attr()

```
<?php // Fictional malicious input...
$href = "javascript:alert('Hello wctrn from href')";
$title = '<script>alert("wctrn");</script>';

// ...and displaying it ?>
<a href=<?php echo $href; ?>>Click here</a>
<h1><?php echo $title; ?></h1>
```



A screenshot of a web browser window titled "view-source:example.com". The page content is displayed in black text on a white background. It shows the original PHP code as comments, followed by the rendered HTML output. The rendered HTML includes a link with the href attribute set to "javascript:alert('Hello wctrn from href')", and an H1 heading containing the script tag.

```
<a href="javascript:alert('Hello wctrn from href')">Click here</a>

<h1><script>alert("wctrn");</script></h1>
```

# Example: esc\_attr()

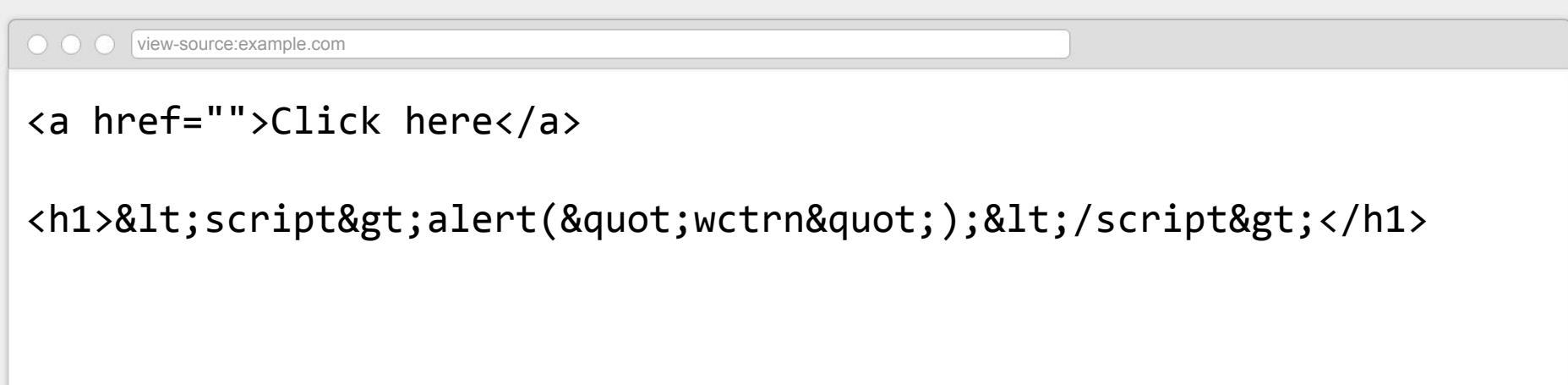
```
<?php // Fictional malicious input...
$href = "javascript:alert('Hello wctrn from href')";
$title = '<script>alert("wctrn");</script>';

// ...and displaying it ?>
<a href="<?php echo esc_url( $href ); ?>">Click here</a>
<h1><?php echo esc_html( $title ); ?></h1>
```

# Example: esc\_attr()

```
<?php // Fictional malicious input...
$href = "javascript:alert('Hello wctrn from href')";
$title = '<script>alert("wctrn");</script>';

// ...and displaying it ?>
<a href="<?php echo esc_url( $href ); ?>">Click here</a>
<h1><?php echo esc_html( $title ); ?></h1>
```



A screenshot of a web browser window titled "view-source:example.com". The page content is displayed in black text on a white background. It shows the rendered HTML code, which has been sanitized by the esc\_attr() function. The malicious script and title have been converted into safe HTML entities: the href attribute now contains an empty string ("") and the title now contains the text "&lt;script&gt;alert("wctrn");&lt;/script&gt;".

```
<a href="">Click here</a>

<h1>&lt;script&gt;alert("wctrn");&lt;/script&gt;</h1>
```

# `wp_is_mobile()`

Test if the current browser  
runs on a mobile device  
(smart phone, tablet, etc.).

# wp\_is\_mobile()

```
function add_my_cool_js_effect_on_desktop() {
    if ( wp_is_mobile() ) {
        return;
    }

    wp_enqueue_script( 'cool-js-effect',
        PATH_TO_MY_JS );
}
```

# wp\_no\_robots()

Display a noindex meta tag.

# wp\_no\_robots()

```
/**
 * Display a noindex meta tag.
 * @since 3.3.0
 */
function wp_no_robots() {
    echo "<meta name='robots'
        content='noindex,follow' />\n";
}
```

# wp\_no\_robots()

```
// Add this to block search engines on page named  
'no-search'  
add_action( 'init', function() {  
    if ( is_page( 'no-search' ) ) {  
        add_action( 'wp_head', 'wp_no_robots' );  
    }  
} );
```

# `wp_parse_args()`

Merge user defined arguments  
into defaults array.

## wp\_parse\_args()

```
<?php  
$defaults = [ 'count' => 5, 'orderby' => 'date',  
'order' => 'asc' ];  
  
$params    = [ 'orderby' => 'title',  
'order' => 'desc' ];  
  
$options   = wp_parse_args( $params, $defaults );
```

## wp\_parse\_args()

```
<?php  
$defaults = [ 'count' => 5, 'orderby' => 'date',  
'order' => 'asc' ];  
  
$params    = [ 'orderby' => 'title',  
'order' => 'desc' ];  
  
$options   = wp_parse_args( $params, $defaults );
```

```
$options = [  
    'count'    => 5,  
    'orderby'  => 'title',  
    'order'    => 'desc',  
]
```

## wp\_parse\_args()

```
<?php  
$defaults = [ 'count' => 5, 'orderby' => 'date',  
'order' => 'asc' ];  
  
$params = [ 'orderby' => 'title',  
'order' => 'desc' ];  
  
$options = wp_parse_args( $params, $defaults );
```

```
$options = [  
    'count' => 5,  
    'orderby' => 'title',  
    'order' => 'desc',  
]
```

## wp\_parse\_args()

```
<?php  
$defaults = [ 'count' => 5, 'orderby' => 'date',  
'order' => 'asc' ];  
  
$params = [ 'orderby' => 'title',  
'order' => 'desc' ];  
  
$options = wp_parse_args( $params, $defaults );
```

```
$options = [  
    'count' => 5,  
    'orderby' => 'title',  
    'order' => 'desc',  
]
```

# wp\_parse\_args()

```
// MyWidget.php
public function form( $instance ) {
    $defaults = array(
        'num_entries'  => 10,
        'widget_title' => __( 'My title', 'my-domain' ),
        'scale'         => 10,
    );
    $instance = wp_parse_args( $instance, $defaults );

    // display the form
}
```

# `wp_send_json_success()`

Send a JSON response back  
to an Ajax request, indicating success.

# wp\_send\_json\_success()

```
jQuery(document).ready(function($) {  
    var data = {'action': 'my_action', 'post_id': 4};  
  
    jQuery.post(my_ajax_url, data, function(response){  
        // AJAX Callback  
    });  
});
```

# wp\_send\_json\_success()

```
add_action( 'wp_ajax_nopriv_my_action',
'my_ajax_handler' );

function my_ajax_handler() {
$post_id = intval( $_POST['post_id'] );
//Retrieve some $output_data related to that post
wp_send_json_success( $output_data );
}
```

# wp\_send\_json\_success()

```
{  
    success: true,  
    data: $output_data  
}
```

# wp\_send\_json\_success()

```
jQuery.post(my_ajax_url, data, function(response){  
    // AJAX Callback  
    if ( response.success ) {  
        alert( 'This is from PHP: ' + response.data );  
    }  
});
```

```
{  
    success: true,  
    data: $output_data  
}
```

## `wp_send_json_error()`

Send a JSON response back to an Ajax request, indicating failure.

## `wp_send_json()`

Send a JSON response back to an Ajax request.

Where do I start?

`/wp-includes/general-template.php`

Mostly template tags.

`/wp-includes/functions.php`

Functions, functions everywhere.

## `/wp-includes/formatting.php`

Strings, dates, and general formatting functions.

## `/wp-includes/pluggable.php`

Overwritable functions. You can be creative, if you know what you are doing.



## Code Reference

Browse: [Home](#) / [Reference](#)

Want to know what's going on inside WordPress? Search the Code Reference for more information about WordPress' functions, classes, methods, and hooks.

Try it out:

Search

Filter by type:  Functions |  Hooks |  Classes |  Methods

Or browse through topics:

[Functions](#)[Hooks](#)[Classes](#)[Methods](#)[NEW & UPDATED IN WORDPRESS 4.4:](#)[API](#)

# Developer reference

<https://developer.wordpress.org/reference/>

# takeaways

Read the Core

Understand

Contribute

Try to find these functions:

`wp_list_pluck()`

`wp_list_filter()`

`wp_extract_urls()`

`make_clickable()`

`add_query_arg()`

`_split_str_by_whitespace()`

`wp_remote_get()`

`wp_parse_id_list()`

Grazie :)

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