

Lesson 5 (1 day)

Lesson Overview

This lesson introduces students to the concept of "format strings". This is the basic building block of developing interaction with the computer and the human user.

Activity

Explain to students that the new concept they are going to learn is a "format string". The way you implement a format string is by putting " (double-quotes) around a piece of text you have. Explain that a string is how you make something that your program might give to a human. You print them, save them to files, send them to web servers, all sorts of things.

In this exercise, they will learn how to make strings that have variables embedded in them. Point out that you embed variables inside a string by using specialized format sequences and then putting the variables at the end with a special syntax that tells Ruby, "Hey, this is a format string, put these variables in there."

Here is the code that the students should implement. They should do it even if they don't understand and copy it exactly.

```
1 my_name = 'Joe Schmoe'
2 my_age = 30 # not a lie
3 my_height = 74 # inches
4 my_weight = 195 # lbs
5 my_eyes = 'Blue'
6 my_teeth = 'White'
7 my_hair = 'Brown'
8
9 puts "Let's talk about %s." % my_name
10 puts "He's %d inches tall." % my_height
11 puts "He's %d pounds heavy." % my_weight
12 puts "Actually that's not too heavy."
13 puts "He's got %s eyes and %s hair." % [my_eyes, my_hair]
14 puts "His teeth are usually %s depending on the coffee." % my_teeth
15
16 # this line is tricky, try to get it exactly right
17 puts "If I add %d, %d, and %d I get %d." % [
18     my_age, my_height, my_weight, my_age + my_height + my_weight]
```

What You Should See

```
$ ruby ex5.rb
```

```
Let's talk about Joe Schmoe. He's
```