

Activity

Use the following as an explanation of strings for students. A string can be a bit of text that you want to display or "export" out of the program you are writing. This means that it is shown on the screen. Ruby knows you want something to be a string when you put either " (double-quotes) or ' (single-quotes) around the text. You saw this many times with your use of puts when you put the text you want to go to the string inside " or ' after the puts and this tells Ruby to display it

Strings may contain the format characters you have discovered so far. You simply put the formatted variables in the string, and then a % (percent) character, followed by the variable. The only catch is that if you want multiple formats in your string to print multiple variables, you need to put them inside [] (brackets) separated by , (commas). It's as if you were telling me to buy you a list of items from the store and you said, "I want milk, eggs, bread, and soup." Only as a programmer you say, "[milk, eggs, bread, soup]".

Another way of injecting variables into your strings is to use something called "string interpolation", which uses the #{ } (pound and curly brace) characters. So, instead of using format strings (write this example of the board and have the students copy it):

```
name1 = "Joe" name2 = "Mary" puts "Hello %s, where is %s?" % [name1, name2]
```

We can type:

```
name1 = "Joe" name2 = "Mary" puts "Hello #{name1}, where is #{name2}?"
```

They will now type in a whole bunch of strings, variables, formats, and print them. They will also practice using short abbreviated variable names. Programmers love saving themselves time at your expense by using short variable names. Have the students copy the following code exactly.

```
1 x = "There are #{10} types of people."
2 binary = "binary"
3 do_not = "don't"
4 y = "Those who know #{binary} and those who #{do_not}."
5
6 puts x
7 puts y
8
9 puts "I said: #{x}."
10 puts "I also said: '#{y}'."
11
12 hilarious = false
13 joke_evaluation = "Isn't that joke so funny?! #{hilarious}"
14
15 puts joke_evaluation
16
17 w = "This is the left side of..."
18 e = "a string with a right side."
19
20 puts w + e
```