

# String Interpolation

String interpolation allows you to insert the value of almost any valid boo expression inside a string by quoting the expression with `$( )`.

The parentheses are unnecessary if the expression is just a variable:

```
now = "IMPORTANT"
print("Tomorrow will be $now")
```

String interpolation kicks in for both [double](#) and [triple](#) quoted strings:

```
print("Now is $(date.Now).")
print("Tomorrow will be $(date.Now + 1d)")

print("""
----
Life, the Universe and Everything: $(len('answer to life the universe and
everything')).
----
""")
```

You can scape the `$` character to prevent interpolation:

```
print("Now is \$(date.Now).") # outputs: Now is $(date.Now).
```

You **don't** need to scape the `$` char when it is followed by a space:

```
print("Calabresa R$ 4,50.")
```

Interpolation doesn't kick in inside [single quoted strings](#):

```
print('Now is $(date.Now).') # outputs: Now is $(date.Now).
```

## String Formatting

Boo also has the `%` (modulus) operator as shorthand for `.NET/Mono's string.Format` method. This is a little more similar to Python's string interpolation, too.

```
s = "Right now it is {0}. Say hi to {1}."
print s % (date.Now, "Mary")

//the above is basically shorthand for .NET's string.Format method:
mystr = string.Format("x = {0}, y = {1}", x, y)

//You can also pass the same parameters to Console.Write or WriteLine
//if you just want to print out a formatted string:
System.Console.WriteLine("x = {0}, y = {1}", x, y)
```

## Combine boo and .net's string formatting

This tip suggested by Arron Washington. You can combine the two above techniques to get the best of both, like in this example:

```
first = "Reed"
last = "H"
age = 2
print "$first $last is {0:00} years old." % (age,)
//--> Reed H is 02 years old.
```

Another way is to pass formatting codes to the ToString method:

```
print age.ToString("00")
//--> 02
```

## See Also

Here are some related resources on .NET string formatting:

- <http://www.codeproject.com/books/0735616485.asp>
- <http://www.stevex.org/dottext/articles/158.aspx>
- <http://www.csharpfriends.com/quickstart/howto/doc/format.aspx>