



The Handbook

Codex

http://codex.wordpress.org/Template_Tags/in_category

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Template Tags/in category

Description

Returns true if the current post is in the specified category. This tag must be used within [The Loop](#), though see [below](#).

Usage

Suppose you want to execute some specific [PHP](#) or [HTML](#) only if the current post being processed is in a category with a category ID number we'll represent here as 'category_id'.

```
<?php if ( in_category('category_id') ): ?>
    \\ Some category specific PHP/HTML here
<?php endif; ?>
```

Examples

Display Some Category Specific Text

Display `This is a nice category` in each post which is a member of category **5**, otherwise display `This is a BAD category`.

```
<?php if ( in_category(5) ) {
echo '<span class="my-cat-5">This is a nice category</span>';
} else {
echo '<span class="bad-cat">This is a BAD category</span>';
}
?>
```

Use OUTSIDE The Loop

Normally, this tag must be used inside [The Loop](#) because it depends on a WordPress PHP variable (`$post`) that is assigned a value only when The Loop runs. However, you can *manually* assign this variable and then use the tag just fine.

For example, suppose you want a `single.php` [Template File](#) in your [Theme](#) that will display a *completely different* page depending on what category the individual post is in. Calling `in_category()` from within The Loop may not be convenient for your Template. So use the following as your Theme's `single.php`.

```
<?php
$post = $wp_query->post;
if ( in_category('17') ) {
include(TEMPLATEPATH . '/single2.php');
```

```
} else {  
include(TEMPLATEPATH . '/single1.php');  
}  
<?>
```

This will use `single2.php` as the Template if the post is in category **17** and `single1.php` otherwise.

Parameters

`category_id`

(integer) The category ID of the category for which you wish to test. The parameter may either be passed as a bare integer or as a string:

- `in_category(5)`
- `in_category('5')`

Plugin Options

Eventually, someone will make a clever plugin that will do all of this automatically. At that point this example will become obsolete. However, the [Custom Post Templates Plugin](http://boren.nu/downloads/custom_post_templates.php) (http://boren.nu/downloads/custom_post_templates.php) allows for creation of templates for single posts. It also shows an example of how to add a template which is used for *all* posts in a given category, not just a single post. That example is commented out in the plugin by default but can be easily implemented by uncommenting the appropriate lines.

Related

[the_category](#), [the_category_rss](#), [the_category_ID](#) (Deprecated), [the_category_head](#) (Deprecated), [single_cat_title](#), [category_description](#), [dropdown_cats](#), [list_cats](#), [wp_list_cats](#)