LESSON 2

app.rb

```ruby
city = "Herat"
puts "Hi #{city}"
:name   # a symbol
```

Ruby

Strings & Symbols



A FREE MYWEBUNIVERSITY COURSE

RUBY PROGRAMMING

LESSON 2

Variables, Strings and Symbols

Dynamic typing, numbers, string interpolation, string methods, symbols and nil

Variables

vars.rb

```ruby
name = "Mariam"
age = 21
score = 95.5
passed = true
MAX_STUDENTS = 30
a, b = 1, 2          # parallel assignment
a, b = b, a          # swap
```

- Assign with equals. There are no type declarations: Ruby is dynamically typed, so a …
- Names use snake case. Constants start with a capital letter, and Ruby warns you if you …

01

Numbers

numbers.rb

```ruby
7 / 2           # 3
7 / 2.0         # 3.5
7.fdiv(2)       # 3.5
7 % 2           # 1
2 ** 100        # 1267650600228229401496703205376
1_000_000       # one million
3.7.floor       # 3
```

- Integers grow as big as you need, with no overflow. Dividing two integers gives an integer, …
- Underscores make big numbers readable, and the double star operator is power.

02

Strings and Interpolation

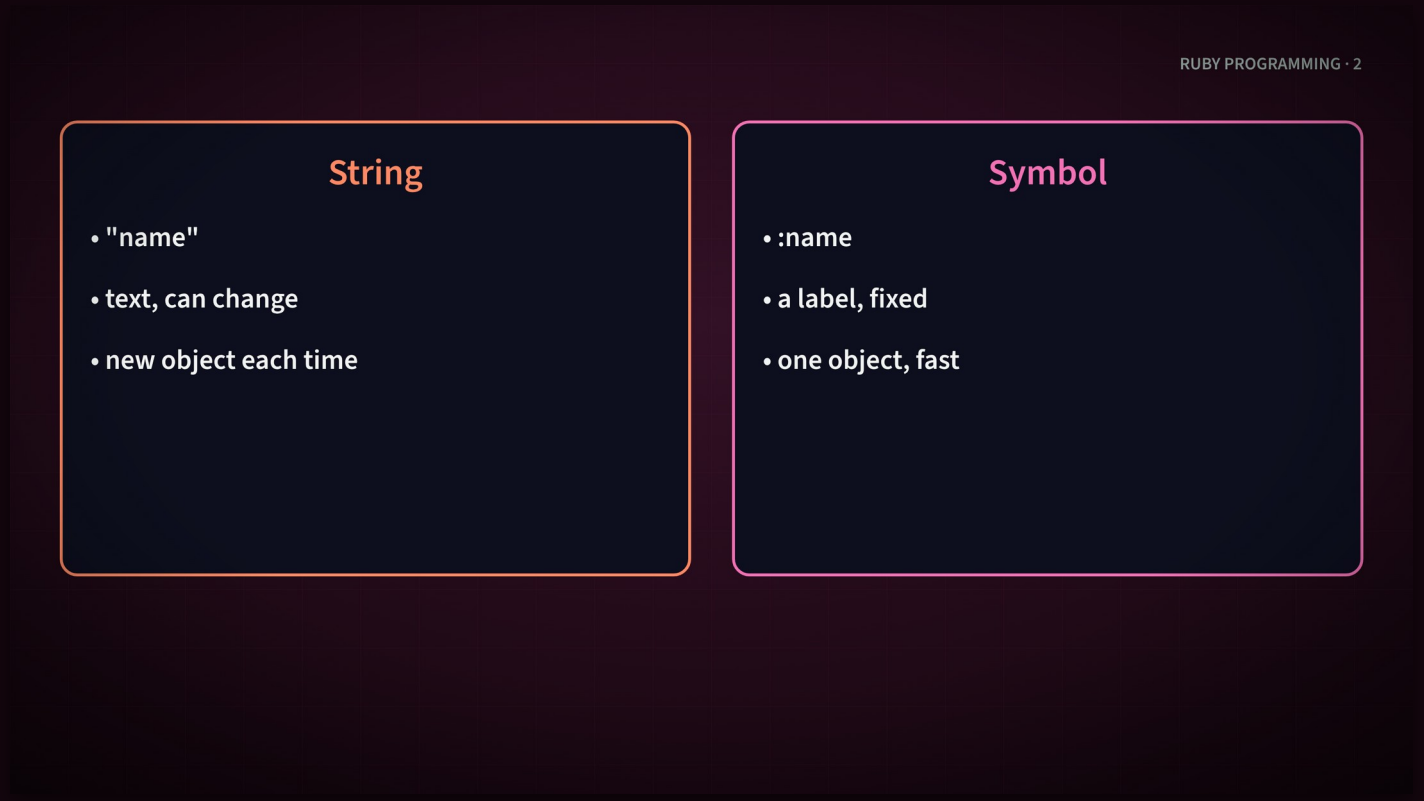
strings.rb

```ruby
city = "Herat"
puts "#{city} has #{city.length} letters"
puts '#{city} stays literal'
"  hi  ".strip                # "hi"
"a,b,c".split(",")           # ["a", "b", "c"]
"Kabul".include?("bul")      # true
"2026-10-24".gsub("-", "/")   # "2026/10/24"
```

- Double-quoted strings support interpolation: hash and curly braces insert any Ruby …
- Strings have hundreds of methods: upcase, length, include, split, strip, gsub and more.

03

Symbols



- A symbol, written with a colon like colon name, is a lightweight, unchangeable label. The …
- Use symbols as names and hash keys, and strings for text you show or change.

04

nil, Truthiness and Conversions

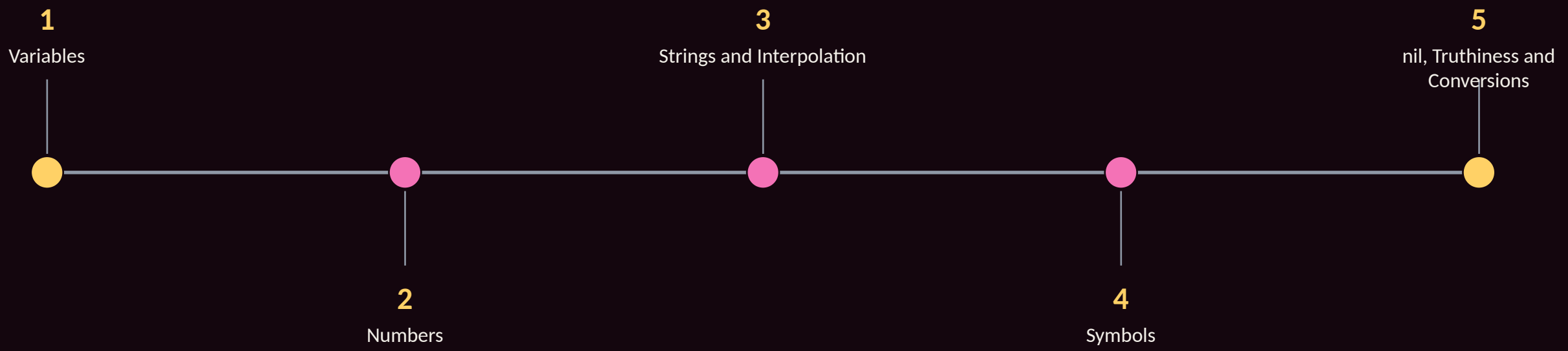
truthy.rb

```ruby
puts "yes" if 0           # yes! 0 is truthy
puts "yes" if ""          # yes!
puts "no"  unless nil      # no
"42".to_i + 1              # 43
3.to_s + "3"               # "33"
nil.nil?                    # true
[].empty?                   # true
```

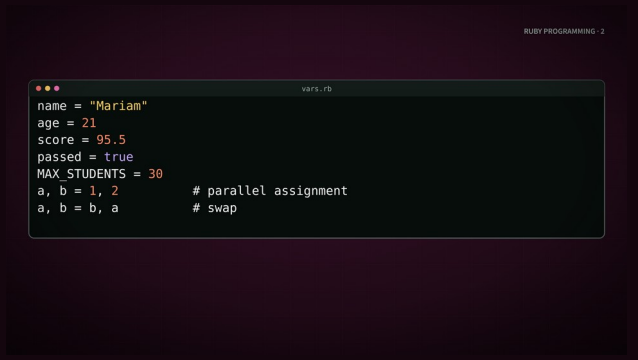
- nil means nothing. In Ruby only nil and false are falsy: zero, empty strings and empty ...
- Convert with to_i, to_f, to_s and to_sym. Method names ending in a question mark return ...

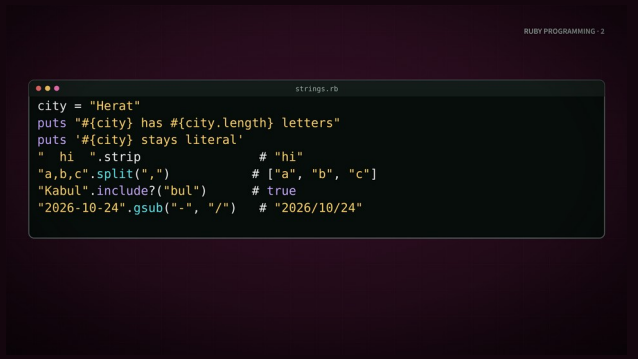
05

Lesson Map


1
Variables
2
Numbers
3
Strings and Interpolation
4
Symbols
5
nil, Truthiness and Conversions

Sources and Further Reading





Thank you for watching

MyWebUniversity.com

Free technical education since 2000 — English and Dari

@MyWebUniversity · @MyWebUniversity-Dari