

Lua [placeholders] Example*

Erik Nijenhuis <erik@xerdi.com>

9th May 2026

Basics

Wrong parameter:

```
\param{non existing} ==> [<unknown> non existing]
```

Conditional Parameter:

```
\hasparam{list example}{is set}{is not set} ==> is not set
```

Before values loaded

Boolean example:

```
\param{bool example} ==> false
```

```
\ifparam{bool example}{TRUE}{FALSE} ==> FALSE
```

String example:

```
\param{string example} ==> "[A string]"
```

Date example (a string whose payload value matches YYYY-MM-DD):

```
\param{date example} ==> [A date]
```

Number example:

```
\rawparam{\jobname}{number example} ==> -1.21
```

```
\param{number example} ==> \numprint{-1.21} ==> -1.21
```

*This example corresponds to lua-placeholders version 2.0.1 written on 2026-05-09.

Number in foreign language:

```
\select language{dutch}\param{number example}
⇒ -1,21
```

List example:

```
\param{list example} ⇒ [A string, A second string]
```

```
\begin{enumerate}
  \newcommand\formatitem[1]{\item #1}
  \forlistitem{list example}{formatitem}
\end{enumerate}
```

⇒

1. [A string]
2. [A second string]

Object example:

```
\paramfield{object example}{name}
\paramfield{object example}{email}
\paramfield{object example}{grade}
⇒ [Your name] [Your email] 5.5
```

```
\newcommand\name{...}
\begin{paramobject}{object example}
  \name \email \grade
\end{paramobject}
% And here it works again
\name
⇒ [Your name] [Your email] 5.5 ...
```

Table example:

```
\nprounddigits{2}
\newcommand\formatrow{\description & \price \\}%
\begin{tabular}{l | l}
  \textbf{Description} & \textbf{Price} \\ \hline
  \fortablerow{table example}{formatrow}
\end{tabular}
\npround
```

⇒

Description	Price
[The description]	[The price]

After values loaded

Boolean example:

```
\param{bool example} ==> true
```

```
\ifparam{bool example}{TRUE}{FALSE} ==> TRUE
```

String example:

```
\param{string example} ==> "PeelInc."
```

Date example:

```
\rawparam{\jobname}{date example} ==>
```

```
\param{date example} ==> 2nd April 2024
```

Number example:

```
\rawparam{\jobname}{number example} ==> 1.21
```

```
\param{number example} ==> \numprint{1.21} ==> 1.21
```

Number in foreign language:

```
\selectlanguage{dutch}\param{number example}  
==> \numprint{1.21} ==> 1,21
```

List example:

```
\param{list example} ==> Tomatoes, Potatoes
```

```
\begin{enumerate}  
  \newcommand\formatitem[1]{\item #1}  
  \forlistitem{list example}{\formatitem}  
\end{enumerate}
```

==>

1. Tomatoes
2. Potatoes

Object example:

```
\paramfield{object example}{name}  
\paramfield{object example}{email}
```

```
\paramfield{object example}{grade}
⇒ John Doe j.doe@example.com 9.5
```

```
\newcommand\name{...}
\begin{paramobject}{object example}
  \name \email \grade
\end{paramobject}
% And here it works again
\name
⇒ John Doe j.doe@example.com 9.5 ...
```

Table example:

```
\nprouddigits{2}
\newcommand\formatrow{\description & \price \\}%
\begin{tabular}{l | l}
  \textbf{Description} & \textbf{Price} \\ \hline
  \fortablerow{table example}{formatrow}
\end{tabular}
\npround
⇒


| Description      | Price |
|------------------|-------|
| Peeling tomatoes | 50.00 |
| Peeling potatoes | 25.00 |


```

Payload File

Listing 1: example.yaml

```
1 bool example: true
2 string example: PeelInc.
3 date example: 2024-04-02
4 number example: 1.21
5 list example:
6   - Tomatoes
7   - Potatoes
8 object example:
9   name: John Doe
10  email: j.doe@example.com
11  grade: 9.5
12 table example:
13   - description: Peeling tomatoes
14     price: 50
15   - description: Peeling potatoes
16     price: 25
```

Specification File

Listing 2: example-specification.yaml

```
1 bool example:
2   type: bool
3   default: false
4 string example:
5   type: string
6   placeholder: A string
7 date example:
8   type: string
9   placeholder: A date
10 number example:
11   type: number
12   default: -1.21
13 list example:
14   type: list
15   item type: string
16   default:
17     - A string
18     - A second string
19 object example:
20   type: object
21   fields:
22     name:
23       type: string
24       placeholder: Your name
25     email:
26       type: string
27       placeholder: Your email
28     grade:
29       type: number
30       default: 5.5
31 table example:
32   type: table
33   columns:
34     description:
35       type: string
36       placeholder: The description
37     price:
38       type: number
39       placeholder: The price
```