Context

Context

- Every operation in Perl is done in a specific "context".
  - mode, manner, meaning
- return value of operation can change depending on its context
- Two *major* contexts – Scalar & List

Scalar Context

- returns a single value.
- Anything assigning to a single value is scalar context.
  - $x = fctn();
  - $x[1] = fctn();
  - $x{"foo"} = fctn();
- force scalar context by `scalar` keyword

List Context

- returns list of values
- assigning to a list (array, slice) is list context
- @x = (1, 2, 3);
- @x[2..4] = (4, 5, 6);
- @x[1] = 5;

context fun

- arrays evaluated in scalar context produce size of array
  - @x = (4, 8, 12);
  - $sizex = @x;
  - $sizex gets value 3.
- print "The list @x contains " . @x . " values.\n";
- The list 4 8 12 contains 3 values.