

# Task

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- Imagine that the following condition didn't exist in `BinarySearch` (lines 45-46).

```
if (beginIndex > endIndex)
    return -1;
```

- Give a list of integers containing more than one key, sorted in ascending order, that would make `BinarySearch` throw a different kind of exception or error. Explain why this would be thrown.
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# Solution

Take for example

MyList

Index	0	1
Key	7	9

An out of bounds error will occur when searching for a number that both doesn't exist in the list and is smaller than the first index key.

Ex.

`search(MyList, 5);`

- 1) Walking through the search, my request becomes `search(MyList,5,0,1)`
- 2) `beginIndex != endIndex` as `0 != 1`
- 3) `middleIndex` is an `Int` variable so when calling upon the method `MathUtils.getMiddleIndex` we are returned 0 as  $\frac{1}{2} = 0$  ← main reason we end up with a negative index later on
- 4) When we call the `.compareTo` function we end receiving a -1, 0 or 1 depending on if the key we are searching for (5 in this case) is less than, equal to, or greater than the key value at `middleIndex` (i.e index 0, key value of 7 at this moment) `5 < 7` so `diff = -1`
- 5) because `diff < 0` and we are searching recursively, the search request turns into `"search(MyList, 5, 0, -1)"`
- 6) obviously because there is no negative indexes when we reach the part where we `key.compareTo(list.get(middleIndex))`, there will be an error when trying to access data from an index of -1 because that is outside of the bounds of `MyList`.

**TLDR:** Searching for a number that both doesn't exist in the list and is smaller than the first index key will result in an out of bounds error. Why? because `middleIndex` is an `int` so when finding the middle of a list of 2 elements, 5 elements, 11 element list ( $2x + 1$  from previous?) you'll end up dividing 1 by 2 and getting 0, which then is followed by subtracting 1 giving you a negative index.