

# sort

[coursera.org/learn/linux-tools-for-developers/supplement/f8EIT/sort](https://coursera.org/learn/linux-tools-for-developers/supplement/f8EIT/sort)

**sort** is used to rearrange the lines of a text file either in ascending or descending order, according to a sort key. You can also sort by particular fields of a file. The default sort key is the order of the ASCII characters (i.e. essentially alphabetically).

**sort** can be used as follows:

Syntax	Usage
<b>sort</b> <b>&lt;filename&gt;</b>	Sort the lines in the specified file, according to the characters at the beginning of each line
<b>cat file1 file2  </b> <b>sort</b>	Combine the two files, then sort the lines and display the output on the terminal
<b>sort -r</b> <b>&lt;filename&gt;</b>	Sort the lines in reverse order
<b>sort -k 3</b> <b>&lt;filename&gt;</b>	Sort the lines by the 3rd field on each line instead of the beginning

When used with the **-u** option, **sort** checks for unique values after sorting the records (lines). It is equivalent to running **uniq** (which we shall discuss) on the output of **sort**.

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
c7:/etc/default>cat grub
GRUB_TIMEOUT="3"
GRUB_DISTRIBUTOR="$(sed 's, release .*$,,g' /etc/system-release)"
GRUB_DEFAULT="saved"
GRUB_DISABLE_SUBMENU="true"
GRUB_TERMINAL_OUTPUT="console"
#GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX="vconsole.keymap=us crashkernel=auto vconsole.font=latarcyrheb-sun16 rhgb quiet"
"
GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX="rhgb quiet"
GRUB_DISABLE_RECOVERY="true"
GRUB_TERMINAL=gfxterm
GRUB_BACKGROUND="/boot/despair.jpg"
c7:/etc/default>
c7:/etc/default>
c7:/etc/default>sort grub
GRUB_BACKGROUND="/boot/despair.jpg"
GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX="rhgb quiet"
#GRUB_CMDLINE_LINUX="vconsole.keymap=us crashkernel=auto vconsole.font=latarcyrheb-sun16 rhgb quiet"
"
GRUB_DEFAULT="saved"
GRUB_DISABLE_RECOVERY="true"
GRUB_DISABLE_SUBMENU="true"
GRUB_DISTRIBUTOR="$(sed 's, release .*$,,g' /etc/system-release)"
GRUB_TERMINAL=gfxterm
GRUB_TERMINAL_OUTPUT="console"
GRUB_TIMEOUT="3"
c7:/etc/default>
```