

# Identifiers

```
IDENTIFIER_OR_KEYWORD : XID_Start XID_Continue*  
                        | "_" XID_Continue+
```

```
IDENTIFIER : IDENTIFIER_OR_KEYWORD /* except strict or reserved keywords */
```

Identifiers follow the specification in [Unicode Standard Annex #31](#) for Unicode version 13.0, with the additions described below. Some examples of identifiers:

- `foo`
- `_identifier`
- `Kraków`
- `Київ`
- `𐀀𐀁`

The profile used from UAX #31 is:

- `Start` := `XID_Start`, plus the underscore character (``U+005F`)
- ``Continue` := `XID_Continue`
- `Medial` := empty

with the additional constraint that a single underscore character is not an identifier.

**Note:** Identifiers starting with an underscore are typically used to indicate an identifier that is intentionally unused, and will silence the unused warning.

Identifiers may not be a [strict] or [reserved] keyword.

Zero width non-joiner (ZWNJ `U+200C`) and zero width joiner (ZWJ `U+200D`) characters are not allowed in identifiers.

Identifiers are restricted to the ASCII subset of {xid-start} and `XID_Continue` in the following situations:

- Module names loaded from the filesystem.

## Normalization

Identifiers are normalized using Normalization Form C (NFC) as defined in [UAX15](#). Two identifiers are equal if their NFC forms are equal.

# Case sensitivity

Cairo is a *case-sensitive* language which means that upper and lower case code points are distinct.