

# Sort an Array of Objects by Property Using sort(fn)

OSCON, Austin, TX • May 8-11 • Save 20% PC20DWALSH

By [David Walsh](#) on February 27, 2012

10    [Twitter](#)    [Facebook](#)    [Google+](#)    [Reddit](#)    [StumbleUpon](#)

Believe it or not, there's more to JavaScript than the helper methods and classes they provide your JavaScript library. No, like seriously bro; these JavaScript-given methods do exist. One of those methods, sort, is provided to every Array instance via its prototype. I've used this method once or twice in the history of ever, bro, since I make every effort to ensure proper sort on the server side, but sometimes you may receive a JSON dump and need to sort on the client side.

## {Track:js}



Most people would assume that sort would take no method and simply sort the basic items within the array:

```
[1, 3, 9, 2].sort();
// Returns: [1, 2, 3, 9]

[1, "a", function(){}, {}, 12, "c"].sort();
// Returns: [1, 12, Object, "a", "c", function (){}]
```

But nay, broseph! If you provide a function expression to the sort method, you can sort objects within the array using simple logic. Let's say you have an array of objects representing persons and you want to sort them by age. Oh yes, it can be done, and quite easily:

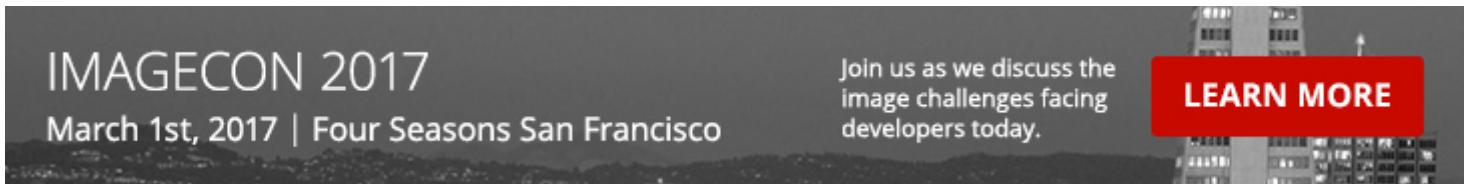
```
[{ name: "Robin Van Persie", age: 28 },
{ name: "Theo Walcott", age: 22 },
{ name: "Bacary Sagna", age: 26 }
```

```
].sort(function(obj1, obj2) {  
    // Ascending: first age less than the previous  
    return obj1.age - obj2.age;  
});  
// Returns:  
// [  
//     { name: "Theo Walcott", age: 22 },  
//     { name: "Bacary Sagna", age: 26 },  
//     { name: "Robin Van Persie", age: 28 }  
// ]
```

---

The anonymous function returns whether or not the first object's age is less than the second's, thus sorting the entire array in ascending order by age. Reverse the first and second arguments to sort in descending order.

So brochacho, now you know how to sort an array of objects using JavaScript. Get to it!



## Recent Features



### I'm an Impostor

This is the hardest thing I've ever had to write, much less admit to myself. I've written resignation letters from jobs I've loved, I've ended relationships, I've failed at a host of tasks, and let myself down in my life. All of those feelings were very...

### Regular Expressions for the Rest of Us

Sooner or later you'll run across a regular expression. With their cryptic syntax, confusing documentation and massive learning curve, most developers settle for copying and pasting them from StackOverflow and hoping they work. But what if you could decode regular expressions and harness their power? In...

## Incredible Demos



## iPad Detection Using JavaScript or PHP

The hottest device out there right now seems to be the iPad. iPad this, iPad that, iPod your mom. I'm underwhelmed with the device but that doesn't mean I shouldn't try to account for such devices on the websites I create. In Apple's...

## NSFW Blocker Using MooTools and CSS

One of my guilty pleasures is scoping out the latest celebrity gossip from PerezHilton.com, DListed.com, and JoBlo.com. Unfortunately, these sites occasionally post NSFW pictures which makes checking these sites on lunch a huge gamble -- a trip to HR's office could be just a click away. Since...

## Discussion

Boger



Nice read, never thought to sort objects this way. but man broseph and brochacho got me laugh to death :D

champi



Great ! how could I do this in PHP ?

Jonathan Petitcolas



A little bit late, but it still may be useful... ;)

In PHP, it is almost the same. Here is the equivalent code:

```
$people = array(
    array('name' => 'Robin Van Persie', 'age' => 28),
    array('name' => 'Theo Walcott', 'age' => 22),
    array('name' => 'Bacary Sagna', 'age' => 26)
);

usort($people, function($a, $b) {
    return $a['age'] - $b['age'];
});

var_dump($people);
```

More informations: <http://php.net/manual/fr/function.usort.php>

## Anil Gautam



Hey I am tring your code but its not working.

## mauro



hi, i have tryed to bud a sort function by attributes a lot really, and finally i find this blog, your code work for me if the attribute is a number not if it is a string, why? i have to do something in that case? really thank you

## Do Jo



What if I wanted to sort by “name”?

## hlper



<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/10198257/comparing-2-strings-alphabetically-for-sorting-purposes>

## Fahad Rafiq



Array sorting is very important when we deal with many array elements. We have variety of array functions which can sort arrays with respect to value as well as with respect to key. Explore the most important array sorting functions in PHP here:

<http://www.cloudways.com/blog/php-arrays-sorting-functions/>.

## George



Why do you do

```
return obj1.age - obj2.age;
```

and not

```
return obj1.age > obj2.age;
```

.. and most importantly why do these two things give the same result?:)

## Lumberjack



Sorry but it seems the parser screwed up my message. Let me try again:

```
return a.age - b.age;
```

The above will return -1 if a is less than b.

If a is equal to b, then it will return 0.

If a is greater than b, then it will return 1.

```
return a.age > b.age;
```

This however will return a binary.

If a is greater than b, then it will return true.

In all other cases where a is equal to b OR a is less than b, it will return false.

This will give an incorrect result for the case where a is less than b.

Hopefully that makes sense.

Name

Email

Website

*Wrap your code in `<pre class="{Language}"></pre>` tags, link to a GitHub gist, JSFiddle fiddle, or CodePen pen to embed!*

Continue this conversation via email

[Post Comment!](#)

[Use Code Editor](#)



