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## Largest Number

/ Easy and simple Java solution with comments, Comparator logic written in 6 lines of code 

# Easy and simple Java solution with comments, Comparator logic written in 6 lines of code



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**nate7**

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```
public class Solution {
    public String largestNumber(int[] nums) {
        if (nums == null || nums.length == 0) return "";

        // sort with comparator
        ArrayList<String> al = new ArrayList<String>();
        for (int i : nums) al.add(i + "");
        Collections.sort(al, new largestNum());

        // build string
        StringBuilder sb = new StringBuilder();
        for (String i : al) sb.append(i);

        // this to deal with corner case for "00"
```

```

        if (sb.toString().charAt(0) == '0') return "0";

        return sb.toString();
    }

    // idea is if the strings are of different lengths, append them together in the two possible
    // and see which way of appending is better
    private class largestNum implements Comparator<String> {
        public int compare(String str1, String str2) {
            if (str2.equals(str1)) return 0;
            if (str1.length() != str2.length()) return compare(str1 + str2, str2 + str1);

            for (int i = 0; i < str1.length(); i++) {
                if (str1.charAt(i) > str2.charAt(i)) return -1;
                else if (str1.charAt(i) < str2.charAt(i)) return 1;
            }
            return 0;
        }
    }
}

```

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