

## Sorting a Character Array

C++ STL provides a function `sort` that sorts a vector or array. It generally takes two parameters, the first one being the point of the array/vector from where the sorting needs to begin and the second parameter being the length up to which we want the array/vector to get sorted.

But in cases where you want to sort the elements lexicographically then you can provide the third parameter which is optional.

**By default, the `sort()` function sorts the elements in ascending order.**

**Example:** Default behaviour of `sort()` in STL.

```
#include <bits/stdc++.h>
using namespace std;
int main()
{
    char arr[] = { 'j', 'i', 'h', 'g', 'f', 'e', 'd', 'c', 'b', 'a' };
    int n = sizeof(arr) / sizeof(arr[0]);

    /*Here we take two parameters, the beginning of the array and the length n
    upto which we want the array to be sorted*/

    sort(arr, arr + n);

    cout << "\nArray after sorting using default sort is : \n";
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
        cout << arr[i] << " ";

    return 0;
}
```

## How to sort in descending order?

sort() takes a third parameter that is used to specify the order in which elements are to be sorted. We can pass the “greater()” function to sort in descending order. This function does a comparison in a way that puts greater elements before.

**Example:** To demonstrate descending order sort using greater<>().

```
#include <bits/stdc++.h>
using namespace std;
int main()
{
    char arr[] = { 'a', 'x', 's', 'e', 'w', 'q', 'p', 'i', 'y', 'b' };
    int n = sizeof(arr) / sizeof(arr[0]);

    sort(arr, arr + n, greater<char>());

    cout << "Array after sorting : \n";
    for (int i = 0; i < n; ++i)
        cout << arr[i] << " ";

    return 0;
}
```