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# Sort Alphabetically in JavaScript – How to Order by Name in JS



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#JAVASCRIPT

## Sort Alphabetically in JavaScript – How to Order by Name in JS

```
// order an array of names
names.sort();

// order an array of object with name
users.sort(function (a, b) {
  if (a.name < b.name) {
    return -1;
  }
  if (a.name > b.name) {
    return 1;
  }
  return 0;
});
```



Sometimes you might have an array of words where you want to sort each word alphabetically (from a-z). Or you might have an array of objects containing user

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We can do this in JavaScript by using the `sort()` method directly or with the compare function.

In case you are in a rush, here are the two ways:

```
// order an array of names
names.sort();

// order an array of objects with name
users.sort(function (a, b) {
  if (a.name < b.name) {
    return -1;
  }
  if (a.name > b.name) {
    return 1;
  }
  return 0;
});
```

Let's now learn how we came to both solutions.

## How to Sort an Array of Names Alphabetically

Suppose we have an array of names:

```
let names = ["John Doe", "Alex Doe", "Peter Doe", "Elon Doe"];
```

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```
let sortedNames = names.sort();
console.log(sortedNames);
```

This will return an array of alphabetically sorted names:

```
["Alex Doe", "Elon Doe", "John Doe", "Peter Doe"]
```

**Note:** In a situation when some names start with uppercase while others start with lowercase, then the output will be incorrect because the `sort()` method places uppercase letters before lowercase:

```
let names = ["John Doe", "alex Doe", "peter Doe", "Elon Doe"];
let sortedNames = names.sort();

console.log(sortedNames); // ["Elon Doe", "John Doe", "alex Doe", "peter I
```

So you'll need to make sure that the words are all in the same case, else it won't return the names alphabetically as we desire.

## How to Order by Name Alphabetically in JavaScript

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average the name of the user. For example:

```
let users = [
  {
    name: "John Doe",
    age: 17
  },
  {
    name: "Elon Doe",
    age: 27
  },
  {
    name: "Alex Doe",
    age: 14
  }
];
```

Looking at the object above, the previous method in which we just applied the `sort()` method on the array directly will not work. Instead, it will throw the same array but the items won't be in the order we want.

We will use the `sort()` method alongside the compare function to order this array of users by name.

We will use the compare function to define an alternative sort order. It returns a negative, zero, or positive value, depending on the arguments:

Syntax:

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When we pass this comparison function into the `sort()` method, it compares each value based on the condition we set and then sorts each name according to the returned value (negative, zero, positive).

- If the result is negative, `a` is sorted before `b`.
- If the result is positive, `b` is sorted before `a`.
- If the result is `0`, no changes are made to the sort order of the two values.

Using the example above, we can now use the `sort()` method alongside the compare function this way:

```
users.sort(function (a, b) {  
  if (a.name < b.name) {  
    return -1;  
  }  
  if (a.name > b.name) {  
    return 1;  
  }  
  return 0;  
});  
  
console.log(users);
```

The above code compares each name. If it's greater, it returns 1. If it's less, it returns -1. Otherwise, it returns 0. The returned value is used to order our array's values alphabetically:

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```
    age: 14
  },
  {
    name: "Elon Doe",
    age: 27
  },
  {
    name: "John Doe",
    age: 17
  }
]
```

**Note:** Just like we saw previously, this always works according to letter case and will order uppercase letters before lowercase:

```
let users = [
  {
    name: "alex Doe",
    age: 14
  },
  {
    name: "Elon Doe",
    age: 27
  },
  {
    name: "John Doe",
    age: 17
  }
];

users.sort(function (a, b) {
  if (a.name < b.name) {
    return -1;
  }
  if (a.name > b.name) {
    return 1;
  }
});
```

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```
console.log(users);
```

Output:

```
[
  {
    name: "Elon Doe",
    age: 27
  },
  {
    name: "John Doe",
    age: 17
  },
  {
    name: "alex Doe",
    age: 14
  }
]
```

## Wrapping Up

In this article, you have learned how to order an array alphabetically using the `sort()` method in two possible situations.

In a situation when the names have different letter cases, it is best to first convert them to a specific letter case before using the `sort()` method.

Happy coding!

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