

**Step Into Java**

**Comparable**

**Mr. Neat**

**Comparable is an  
Interface.**

**Any class that implements the  
Comparable interface must  
Implement the  
compareTo method**

**int compareTo(Object other)**

**This method compares the calling object  
to “other”**

**Usually the calling object and “other” are  
the same type**

**int compareTo(Object other)**

**compareTo returns:**

- a positive number if the calling object is greater than the “other” object**
- 0 if the 2 objects are equal**
- a negative number if the calling object is less than the “other” object**

**The String class implements the Comparable interface.**

- The comparison is alphabetical**
- It is case sensitive**
- All upper case letters precede all lower case.**

# Example:

```
// prints happy to the screen  
String temp = new String("happy");  
String temp2 = new String("zappy");  
if(temp.compareTo(temp2) < 0)  
{  
    System.out.print(temp);  
}
```