**Compare two dates with each other in Java**

[**JAVA DATE**](http://beginnersbook.com/category/technology/java-guide/java-date/)

This tutorial is divided into three sections as follows:

**1)**[**Calculate the number of days between two dates**](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/04/number-of-days-calculation-between-two-dates/)  
**2)**[**Get the previous day date and the next day date from the given date**](http://beginnersbook.com/2013/04/get-the-previous-day-date-and-next-day-date-from-the-given-date/)  
**3) Compare two dates with each other**

**You’re reading part 3 of above mentioned tutorials:**In the below example we are providing the dates in yyyy-MM-dd format to the custom method(which we have created) and the method is returning the date which is greater than the other one.

import java.text.ParseException;

import java.text.DateFormat;

import java.text.SimpleDateFormat;

import java.util.Date;

class CompareExample{

public static void main(String args[])

{

CompareExample obj = new CompareExample();

String str= obj.compareTwoDates("2013-11-28", "2013-10-31");

System.out.println(str);

}

private String compareTwoDates(String fromDate,String toDate)

{

//split year, month and days from the date using StringBuffer.

StringBuffer sBuffer = new StringBuffer(fromDate);

String year = sBuffer.substring(2,4);

String mon = sBuffer.substring(5,7);

String dd = sBuffer.substring(8,10);

//split year, month and days from the date using StringBuffer.

StringBuffer sBuffer1 = new StringBuffer(toDate);

String year1 = sBuffer1.substring(2,4);

String mon1 = sBuffer1.substring(5,7);

String dd1 = sBuffer1.substring(8,10);

String modifiedFromDate = dd +'/'+mon+'/'+year;

String modifiedToDate = dd1 +'/'+mon1+'/'+year1;

//int MILLIS\_IN\_DAY = 1000 \* 60 \* 60 \* 24;

/\* Use SimpleDateFormat to get date in the format as

\*passed in the constructor. This object can be used to

\*covert date in string format to java.util.Date and vice versa\*/

SimpleDateFormat dateFormat = new SimpleDateFormat("dd/MM/yy");

java.util.Date dateSelectedFrom = null;

java.util.Date dateSelectedTo = null;

// convert date present in the String to java.util.Date.

try

{

dateSelectedFrom = dateFormat.parse(modifiedFromDate);

}

catch(Exception e)

{

e.printStackTrace();

}

// convert date present in the String to java.util.Date.

try

{

dateSelectedTo = dateFormat.parse(modifiedToDate);

}

catch(Exception e)

{

e.printStackTrace();

}

//use the compareTo method of java.util.Date to compare two java.util.Dates.

if(dateSelectedFrom.compareTo(dateSelectedTo)>0)

{

return fromDate;

}

else

{

return toDate;

}

}

}

Output:

2013-11-28