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# Unicode collation algorithm

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The **Unicode collation algorithm** (UCA) is an algorithm defined in Unicode Technical Report #10, which defines a customizable method to compare two [strings](#). These comparisons can then be used to [collate](#) or sort text in any [writing system](#) and [language](#) that can be represented with [Unicode](#).

Unicode Technical Report #10 also specifies the *Default Unicode Collation Element Table* (DUCET). This datafile specifies the default collation ordering. The DUCET is customizable for different languages. Some such customisations can be found in [Common Locale Data Repository](#) (CLDR).

An important open source implementation of UCA is included with the [International Components for Unicode](#), ICU. ICU also supports tailoring and the collation tailorings from CLDR are included in ICU. You can see the effects of tailoring and a large number of language specific tailorings in the on-line **ICU Locale Explorer**.

## See also [\[edit\]](#)

- [Collation](#)
- [ISO/IEC 14651](#)
- [European ordering rules](#) (EOR)
- [Common Locale Data Repository](#) (CLDR)

## External links and references [\[edit\]](#)

- [Unicode Collation Algorithm](#)↗: Unicode Technical Standard #10
- [Mimer SQL Unicode Collation Charts](#)↗
- [MySQL UCA-based Unicode Collation Charts](#)↗

## Tools [\[edit\]](#)

- [ICU Locale Explorer](#)↗ An online demonstration of the Unicode Collation Algorithm using [International Components for Unicode](#)
- [msort](#)↗ A sort program that provides an unusual level of flexibility in defining collations and extracting keys.
- [OpenRTL](#)↗ A library of functions using Unicode collation based on the Unicode collation algorithm. Also supports the customized Unicode collations for the locales defined by CLDR.

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**Unicode**

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