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Using Sort to Rearrange the Contents of Each Line in a List



> This command:
>
> sort lines of ... by blahBlahBlah
>
> gets a sort key by calling (virtually) this function on each line:
>
> function sortKey each
> return blahBlahBlah
> end if
>
> If I'm right, you should be able to do other interesting sorts.

Right, and it works great. You can write a custom sort function that does just about anything you can think of. Here's an example. I had a list of contact info exported as a comma-delimited list of itemized lines:

```
first,last,phone  
jacque,gay,724-1596  
bob,smith,123-1234  
mary,jones,345-6929  
john,doe,939-2939
```

And I wanted to re-arrange the contents of each line so that the last name was first, followed by the first name, then the phone. This did it:

```
local theCount,theRightOrder  
on dosort  
  put fld 1 into theData -- the original list  
  put "2,1,3" into theRightOrder -- the key line  
  repeat for each line 1 in theData  
    put 0 into theCount  
    sort items of 1 by mySort(each)  
    put 1 & return after theNewData  
  end repeat  
  put theNewData into fld 2  
end dosort  
  
function mySort  
  add 1 to theCount  
  return item theCount of theRightOrder  
end mySort
```

You could alter this to sort data in one field based on the order in another field, or to use any arbitrary order you want. Lots of variations are possible.

Posted on 1/14/03 by Jacqueline Landman Gay ([HyperActive Software](#)) to the Use-Revolution list ([See the complete post/thread](#))

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