

# What is WritableComparable?

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- **A WritableComparable is a Writable which is also Comparable**
  - Two WritableComparables can be compared against each other to determine their 'order'
  - Keys must be WritableComparables because they are passed to the Reducer in sorted order
  - We will talk more about WritableComparables later
- **Note that despite their names, all Hadoop box classes implement both Writable and WritableComparable**
  - For example, IntWritable is actually a WritableComparable