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A.11.1 What CJK character sets are available in MySQL?

The list of CJK character sets may vary depending on your MySQL version. For example, the [gb18030](#) character set is not supported prior to MySQL 5.7.4. However, since the name of the applicable language appears in the [DESCRIPTION](#) column for every entry in the [INFORMATION_SCHEMA.CHARACTER_SETS](#) table, you can obtain a current list of all the non-Unicode CJK character sets using this query:

```
mysql> SELECT CHARACTER_SET_NAME, DESCRIPTION
FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.CHARACTER_SETS
WHERE DESCRIPTION LIKE '%Chin%'
OR DESCRIPTION LIKE '%Japanese%'
OR DESCRIPTION LIKE '%Korean%'
ORDER BY CHARACTER_SET_NAME;
```

CHARACTER_SET_NAME	DESCRIPTION
big5	Big5 Traditional Chinese
cp932	SJIS for Windows Japanese
eucjpms	UJIS for Windows Japanese
euckr	EUC-KR Korean
gb18030	China National Standard GB18030
gb2312	GB2312 Simplified Chinese
gbk	GBK Simplified Chinese
sjis	Shift-JIS Japanese
ujis	EUC-JP Japanese

(For more information, see [Section 26.3.4, “The INFORMATION_SCHEMA CHARACTER_SETS Table”](#).)

MySQL supports three variants of the *GB* (*Guojia Biaozhun*, or *National Standard*, or *Simplified Chinese*) character sets which are official in the People's Republic of China: [gb2312](#), [gbk](#), and (as of MySQL 5.7.4) [gb18030](#).

Sometimes people try to insert [gbk](#) characters into [gb2312](#), and it works most of the time because [gbk](#) is a superset of [gb2312](#). But eventually they try to insert a rarer Chinese character and it does not work. (For an example, see [Bug #16072](#)).

Here, we try to clarify exactly what characters are legitimate in [gb2312](#) or [gbk](#), with reference to the official documents. Please check these references before reporting [gb2312](#) or [gbk](#) bugs:

- The MySQL [gbk](#) character set is in reality “Microsoft code page 936”. This differs from the official [gbk](#) for characters [A1A4](#) (middle dot), [A1AA](#) (em dash), [A6E0–A6F5](#), and [A8BB–A8C0](#).