

How to Compare Strings in Kotlin?

Kotlin – Compare Strings

To compare strings in Kotlin, use `String.compareTo()` method.

Given two strings `str1` and `str2`, and if we would like to compare string `str1` to string `str2`, call `compareTo()` method on string `str1` and pass the string `str2` as argument to the method as shown below.

```
str1.compareTo(str2)
```

`compareTo()` method returns

- zero, if `str1` equals `str2`
- negative number if `str1` is less than `str2` lexicographically
- positive number if `str1` is greater than `str2` lexicographically

Example 1 – Two Strings are Equal

In this example, we will take two strings in `str1` and `str2`, such that both have same string values. We shall compare them using `compareTo()` method and observe the result.

Kotlin Program

```
fun main(args: Array<String>) {  
    val str1 = "abcd"  
    val str2 = "abcd"  
  
    val result = str1.compareTo(str2)  
  
    println("Value returned by compareTo() : " + result)  
    if (result == 0) {  
        println("The two strings are equal.")  
    }  
}
```

Output

```
Value returned by compareTo() : 0  
The two strings are equal.
```

Example 2 – String is Less than Other String

In this example, we will take two strings in str1 and str2, such that str1 occurs before str2 in lexicographical order. We shall compare them using compareTo() method and observe the result. compareTo() should return a negative value.

Kotlin Program

```
fun main(args: Array<String>) {
    val str1 = "abc"
    val str2 = "bcd"

    val result = str1.compareTo(str2)

    println("Value returned by compareTo() : " + result)
    if (result < 0) {
        println("This string str1 is less than the other string str2.")
    }
}
```

Output

```
Value returned by compareTo() : -1
This string str1 is less than the other string str2.
```

Example 3 – String is Greater than Other String

In this example, we will take two strings in str1 and str2, such that str1 occurs after str2 in lexicographical order. We shall compare them using compareTo() method and observe the result. compareTo() should return a positive value.

Kotlin Program

```
fun main(args: Array<String>) {
    val str1 = "bcd"
    val str2 = "abc"

    val result = str1.compareTo(str2)

    println("Value returned by compareTo() : " + result)
    if (result > 0) {
        println("This string str1 is greater than the other string str2.")
    }
}
```

Output

```
Value returned by compareTo() : 1
This string str1 is greater than the other string str2.
```

Conclusion

In this [Kotlin Tutorial](#), we learned how to compare two strings using `String.compareTo()` method, with the help of Kotlin example programs.

Kotlin Java

- ◆ [Kotlin Tutorial](#)

Getting Started

- ◆ [Setup Kotlin\(Java\) Project](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Example Program](#)
- ◆ [Convert Java to Kotlin](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Main Function](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Loops](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin For Loop](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin While, Do While Loops](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Repeat](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Ranges](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin When](#)

Object Oriented Concepts

Classes

- ◆ [Kotlin - Class, Primary and Secondary Constructors](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Sealed Class](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Data Class](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Enum](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Extension Functions](#)

Inheritance

- ◆ [Kotlin Inheritance](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin Override Method of Super Class](#)

Abstraction

- ◆ Kotlin Abstraction
- ◆ Kotlin Abstract Class
- ◆ Kotlin - Interfaces
- ◆ Kotlin Null Safety

Exception Handling

- ◆ Kotlin Try Catch
- ◆ Kotlin Throw Exception
- ◆ Kotlin Custom Exception

Fix Compilation Errors

- ◆ Kotlin - Variable must be initialized
- ◆ Kotlin - Primary Constructor call expected
- ◆ Kotlin - Null can not be a value of a non-null type String
- ◆ Kotlin - Cannot create an instance of an abstract class

Kotlin - String Operations

- ◆ Kotlin - Compare Strings
- ◆ Kotlin - Replace String
- ◆ Kotlin - Split String
- ◆ Kotlin - Split String to Lines
- ◆ Kotlin - String Capitalize

Kotlin - Functions

- ◆ Kotlin Function - Default Arguments
- ◆ Kotlin - Use Function

Kotlin Collections

Kotlin List

- ◆ Kotlin List
- ◆ Kotlin List forEach

Kotlin File Operations

- ◆ [Kotlin - Create File](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Read File](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Read File as List of Lines](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Write to File](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Append Text to File](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Check if File Exists](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Copy a File to Other](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Iterate through all files in a directory](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Delete Recursively](#)
- ◆ [Kotlin - Get File Extension](#)

[Kotlin Interview Q/A](#)

- ◆ [Kotlin Interview Questions](#)

[Kotlin Android](#)

- ◆ [Kotlin Android Tutorial](#)

[Useful Resources](#)

- ◆ [How to Learn Programming](#)