

How to Sort a Python List in Ascending or Descending order using sort() or sorted()?

Sort List in Python

You can sort a list in ascending or descending order using `list.sort()` or `sorted(list)`.

`sort()` can accept a boolean argument called `reverse` which by default is `False` and sorts the list in ascending order. If this parameter is given `True`, the list shall be sorted in descending order.

Sort Python List in Ascending Order

We shall not provide any argument to `sort()`, hence the default operation of sorting the list in ascending order should happen.

example.py – Python Program

```
#initialize list
aList = [21, 28, 14, 96, 84, 65, 74, 31]

#sort list
aList.sort()

#print sorted list
print(aList)
```

Output

```
[14, 21, 28, 31, 65, 74, 84, 96]
```

Sort Python List in Descending Order

We shall provide the value of `reverse` parameter of `sort()` as `True`. Then the sorting will happen in Descending order.

example.py – Python Program

```
#initialize list
aList = [21, 28, 14, 96, 84, 65, 74, 31]

#sort list
aList.sort(reverse=True)

#print sorted list
print(aList)
```

Output

```
[96, 84, 74, 65, 31, 28, 21, 14]
```

Little more about sort() and introduction to sorted()

sort() does perform in-place sorting. So, the original list is modified.

If you would like to keep the original list unchanged, you can use sorted(). sorted() returns the sorted list with doing any modifications to the original list.

example.py – Python Program

```
#initialize list
aList = [21, 28, 14, 96, 84, 65, 74, 31]

#sort list
sortedList = sorted(aList)

#print list
print(aList)
#print sorted list
print(sortedList)
```

Output

```
[21, 28, 14, 96, 84, 65, 74, 31]
[14, 21, 28, 31, 65, 74, 84, 96]
```

You can use the same parameter as we used with sort() to sort a list in descending order.

example.py – Python Program

```
#initialize list
aList = [21, 28, 14, 96, 84, 65, 74, 31]

#sort list
sortedList = sorted(aList, reverse=True)

#print list
print(aList)
#print sorted list
print(sortedList)
```

Output

```
[21, 28, 14, 96, 84, 65, 74, 31]
[96, 84, 74, 65, 31, 28, 21, 14]
```

Conclusion

In this [Python Tutorial](#), we learned how to sort a list in Python using sort() and sorted() with the help of example programs.

Python Programming

‣ [Python Tutorial](#)

‣ [Install Python](#)

‣ [Install Anaconda Python](#)

‣ [Python HelloWorld Program](#)

‣ [Python Variables](#)

‣ [Python Variable Data Type Conversion](#)

‣ [Python Comments](#)

Control Statements

‣ [Python If](#)

‣ [Python If Else](#)

‣ [Python While Loop](#)

‣ [Python For Loop](#)

Python String

‣ [Python String Methods](#)

‣ [Python String Length](#)

‣ [Python String Replace](#)

‣ [Python Split String](#)

‣ [Python Count Occurrences of Sub-String](#)

‣ [Python Sort List of Strings](#)

Functions

‣ [Python Functions](#)

Python Collections

‣ [Python List](#)

‣ [Python Dictionary](#)

Advanced

‣ [Python Multithreading](#)

Useful Resources

‣ [Python Interview Questions](#)