



# Collections class

Method name	Description
<code>binarySearch(<b>list</b>, <b>value</b>)</code>	returns the index of the given value in a sorted list (< 0 if not found)
<code>copy(<b>listTo</b>, <b>listFrom</b>)</code>	copies <b>listFrom</b> 's elements to <b>listTo</b>
<code>emptyList()</code> , <code>emptyMap()</code> , <code>emptySet()</code>	returns a read-only collection of the given type that has no elements
<code>fill(<b>list</b>, <b>value</b>)</code>	sets every element in the list to have the given value
<code>max(<b>collection</b>)</code> , <code>min(<b>collection</b>)</code>	returns largest/smallest element
<code>replaceAll(<b>list</b>, <b>old</b>, <b>new</b>)</code>	replaces an element value with another
<code>reverse(<b>list</b>)</code>	reverses the order of a list's elements
<code>shuffle(<b>list</b>)</code>	arranges elements into a random order
<code>sort(<b>list</b>)</code>	arranges elements into ascending order

# The `compareTo` method (10.2)

- The standard way for a Java class to define a comparison function for its objects is to define a `compareTo` method.
  - Example: in the `String` class, there is a method:

```
public int compareTo(String other)
```
- A call of `A.compareTo(B)` will return:
  - a value  $< 0$  if **A** comes "before" **B** in the ordering,
  - a value  $> 0$  if **A** comes "after" **B** in the ordering,
  - 0 if **A** and **B** are considered "equal" in the ordering.

# Comparable (10.2)

```
public interface Comparable<E> {  
    public int compareTo(E other);  
}
```

- A class can implement the `Comparable` interface to define a natural ordering function for its objects.
- A call to your `compareTo` method should return:
  - a value  $< 0$  if the `this` object comes "before" `other` one,
  - a value  $> 0$  if the `this` object comes "after" `other` one,
  - 0 if the `this` object is considered "equal" to `other`.





```
NewsSource source1 = new NewsSource("LocalPaper", 22100, 7.9);
NewsSource source2 = new NewsSource("Roommates", 6, 7.1);
NewsSource source3 = new NewsSource("OnlineBlogs", 22100, 7.3);
```

```
System.out.println(source1.compareTo(source2));
System.out.println(source2.compareTo(source2));
System.out.println(source1.compareTo(source3));
```

- What is the output of this program?

(Let -1 be any negative number and 1 be any positive number)

```
-1 / 0 / 0
 1 / 0 / 0
-1 / 0 / -1
 1 / 0 / -1
 0 / 0 / -1
```

```
// first sort on subscribers in ascending order
// then sort on trust rating in descending order
public int compareTo(NewsSource other) {
    if (other.subscribers != this.subscribers) {
        return this.subscribers - other.subscribers;
    } else {
        return (int) (other.trustRating - this.trustRating);
    }
}
```