

PYTHON LIST CMP METHOD

http://www.tutorialspoint.com/python/list_cmp.htm

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Description

The method **cmp** compares elements of two lists.

Syntax

Following is the syntax for **cmp** method –

```
cmp(list1, list2)
```

Parameters

- **list1** -- This is the first list to be compared.
- **list2** -- This is the second list to be compared.

Return Value

If elements are of the same type, perform the compare and return the result. If elements are different types, check to see if they are numbers.

- If numbers, perform numeric coercion if necessary and compare.
- If either element is a number, then the other element is "larger" *numbers are "smallest"* .
- Otherwise, types are sorted alphabetically by name.

If we reached the end of one of the lists, the longer list is "larger." If we exhaust both lists and share the same data, the result is a tie, meaning that 0 is returned.

Example

The following example shows the usage of cmp method.

```
#!/usr/bin/python
list1, list2 = [123, 'xyz'], [456, 'abc']
print cmp(list1, list2)
print cmp(list2, list1)
list3 = list2 + [786];
print cmp(list2, list3)
```

When we run above program, it produces following result –

```
-1
1
-1
```

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