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ASCII Table and Description

ASCII stands for American Standard Code for Information Interchange. Computers can only understand numbers, so an ASCII code is the numerical representation of a character such as 'a' or '@' or an action of some sort. ASCII was developed a long time ago and now the non-printing characters are rarely used for their original purpose. Below is the ASCII character table and this includes descriptions of the first 32 non-printing characters. ASCII was actually designed for use with teletypes and so the descriptions are somewhat obscure. If someone says they want your CV however in ASCII format, all this means is they want 'plain' text with no formatting such as tabs, bold or underlining - the raw format that any computer can understand. This is usually so they can easily import the file into their own applications without issues. Notepad.exe creates ASCII text, or in MS Word you can save a file as 'text only'

Dec	Hex	Oct	Char	Dec	Hex	Oct	Html	Chr	Dec	Hex	Oct	Html	Chr	Dec	Hex	Oct	Html	Chr
0	0	000	NUL (null)	32	20	040	#32;	Space	64	40	100	#64;	@	96	60	140	#96;	~
1	1	001	SOH (start of heading)	33	21	041	#33;	!	65	41	101	#65;	A	97	61	141	#97;	a
2	2	002	STX (start of text)	34	22	042	#34;	"	66	42	102	#66;	B	98	62	142	#98;	b
3	3	003	ETX (end of text)	35	23	043	#35;	#	67	43	103	#67;	C	99	63	143	#99;	c
4	4	004	EOF (end of transmission)	36	24	044	#36;	\$	68	44	104	#68;	D	100	64	144	#100;	d
5	5	005	ENQ (enquiry)	37	25	045	#37;	%	69	45	105	#69;	E	101	65	145	#101;	e
6	6	006	ACK (acknowledge)	38	26	046	#38;	&	70	46	106	#70;	F	102	66	146	#102;	f
7	7	007	BEL (bell)	39	27	047	#39;	'	71	47	107	#71;	G	103	67	147	#103;	g
8	8	010	BS (backspace)	40	28	050	#40;	(	72	48	110	#72;	H	104	68	150	#104;	h
9	9	011	TAB (horizontal tab)	41	29	051	#41;	)	73	49	111	#73;	I	105	69	151	#105;	i
10	A	012	LF (NL line feed, new line)	42	2A	052	#42;	*	74	4A	112	#74;	J	106	6A	152	#106;	j
11	B	013	VT (vertical tab)	43	2B	053	#43;	+	75	4B	113	#75;	K	107	6B	153	#107;	k
12	C	014	FF (NP form feed, new page)	44	2C	054	#44;	,	76	4C	114	#76;	L	108	6C	154	#108;	l
13	D	015	CR (carriage return)	45	2D	055	#45;	-	77	4D	115	#77;	M	109	6D	155	#109;	m
14	E	016	SO (shift out)	46	2E	056	#46;	.	78	4E	116	#78;	N	110	6E	156	#110;	n
15	F	017	SI (shift in)	47	2F	057	#47;	/	79	4F	117	#79;	O	111	6F	157	#111;	o
16	10	020	DLE (data link escape)	48	30	060	#48;	0	80	50	120	#80;	P	112	70	160	#112;	p
17	11	021	DC1 (device control 1)	49	31	061	#49;	1	81	51	121	#81;	Q	113	71	161	#113;	q
18	12	022	DC2 (device control 2)	50	32	062	#50;	2	82	52	122	#82;	R	114	72	162	#114;	r
19	13	023	DC3 (device control 3)	51	33	063	#51;	3	83	53	123	#83;	S	115	73	163	#115;	s
20	14	024	DC4 (device control 4)	52	34	064	#52;	4	84	54	124	#84;	T	116	74	164	#116;	t
21	15	025	NAK (negative acknowledge)	53	35	065	#53;	5	85	55	125	#85;	U	117	75	165	#117;	u
22	16	026	SYN (synchronous idle)	54	36	066	#54;	6	86	56	126	#86;	V	118	76	166	#118;	v
23	17	027	ETB (end of trans. block)	55	37	067	#55;	7	87	57	127	#87;	W	119	77	167	#119;	w
24	18	030	CAN (cancel)	56	38	070	#56;	8	88	58	130	#88;	X	120	78	170	#120;	x
25	19	031	EM (end of medium)	57	39	071	#57;	9	89	59	131	#89;	Y	121	79	171	#121;	y

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Dec	Hx	Oct	Chr	Dec	Hx	Oct	HTML	Chr	Dec	Hx	Oct	HTML	Chr
0	0	000	NUL (null)	32	20	040	#32;	Space	64	40	100	#64;	@
1	1	001	SOH (start of heading)	33	21	041	#33;	!	65	41	101	#65;	A
2	2	002	STX (start of text)	34	22	042	#34;	"	66	42	102	#66;	B
3	3	003	ETX (end of text)	35	23	043	#35;	#	67	43	103	#67;	C
4	4	004	EOT (end of transmission)	36	24	044	#36;	\$	68	44	104	#68;	D
5	5	005	ENQ (enquiry)	37	25	045	#37;	%	69	45	105	#69;	E
6	6	006	ACK (acknowledge)	38	26	046	#38;	&	70	46	106	#70;	F
7	7	007	BEL (bell)	39	27	047	#39;	'	71	47	107	#71;	G
8	8	010	BS (backspace)	40	28	050	#40;	(	72	48	110	#72;	H
9	9	011	TAB (horizontal tab)	41	29	051	#41;	)	73	49	111	#73;	I
10	A	012	LF (NL line feed, new line)	42	2A	052	#42;	*	74	4A	112	#74;	J
11	B	013	VT (vertical tab)	43	2B	053	#43;	+	75	4B	113	#75;	K
12	C	014	FF (NP form feed, new page)	44	2C	054	#44;	,	76	4C	114	#76;	L
13	D	015	CR (carriage return)	45	2D	055	#45;	-	77	4D	115	#77;	M
14	E	016	SO (shift out)	46	2E	056	#46;	.	78	4E	116	#78;	N
15	F	017	SI (shift in)	47	2F	057	#47;	/	79	4F	117	#79;	O
16	10	020	DLE (data link escape)	48	30	060	#48;	0	80	50	120	#80;	P
17	11	021	DC1 (device control 1)	49	31	061	#49;	1	81	51	121	#81;	Q
18	12	022	DC2 (device control 2)	50	32	062	#50;	2	82	52	122	#82;	R
19	13	023	DC3 (device control 3)	51	33	063	#51;	3	83	53	123	#83;	S
20	14	024	DC4 (device control 4)	52	34	064	#52;	4	84	54	124	#84;	T
21	15	025	NAK (negative acknowledge)	53	35	065	#53;	5	85	55	125	#85;	U
22	16	026	SYN (synchronous idle)	54	36	066	#54;	6	86	56	126	#86;	V
23	17	027	ETB (end of trans. block)	55	37	067	#55;	7	87	57	127	#87;	W
24	18	030	CAN (cancel)	56	38	070	#56;	8	88	58	130	#88;	X
25	19	031	EM (end of medium)	57	39	071	#57;	9	89	59	131	#89;	Y

This reference lets me see the Decimal, Hexadecimal, Octal and HTML for each character. We will focus on Dec and Hex.

So A has a dec value of 65 and a hex value of 41.

So A has a dec value of 65 and a hex value of 41.

Lets start with the hex value of 41. If we take the hex 41 and convert it to binary we get 0100 0001

(remember the 8421 where for 4 we turn on the 4 and for 1 we turn on the 1)
so we now know that the binary for A is 0100 0001

Now lets look at B which has a dec value of 66 and a hex value of 42. Hex 42 is 0100 0010

C is hex 43 which is 0100 0011

I is hex 49 which is 0100 1001

J is hex 4A which is 0100 1010

K is hex 4B which is 0100 1011

O is hex 4F which is 0100 1111

P is hex 50 which is 0101 0000

Z is hex 5A which is 0101 1010

There is a pattern here. The 010 at the beginning designates a capital letter.

So now if I have an A I can figure out the 8 binary digits with what I know. The first three binary digits are 010 because it is an upper case letter and the last five binary digits are 00001 because it is the first letter of the alphabet.

01000001

So now divide into groups of four and you can get the hex. 0100 0001 is 41 because in the first group of 8421 the four is turned on giving us 0100 and in the second group of 8421 the 1 is turned on giving us 0001.

The O is 010 and since O is the 15th letter, I have to look at 16 8 4 2 1 for the places and figure out that I need to turn on 8,4,2,1 to make 15 so I have 01111. Putting these together I have 01001111.

The Z is 010 and since Z is the 26th letter, I have to look at 16 8 4 2 1 for the places and figure out that I need to turn on 16, 8, 2 to make 26 so I have 11010. Putting these together I have 01011010.

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and this includes descriptions of the most common printing characters. ASCII was actually designed to use with teletypes and so the descriptions are somewhat obscure. If someone says they want your CV however in ASCII format, all this means is they want 'plain' text with no formatting such as tabs, bold or underlining - the raw format that any computer can understand. This is usually so they can easily import the file into their own applications without issues. Notepad.exe creates ASCII text, or in MS Word you can save a file as 'text only'

Dec	Hex	Oct	Char	Dec	Hex	Oct	Html	Chr	Dec	Hex	Oct	Html	Chr
0	0	000	NUL (null)	32	20	040	#32;	Space	64	40	100	#64;	R
1	1	001	SOH (start of heading)	33	21	041	#33;	!	65	41	101	#65;	A
2	2	002	STX (start of text)	34	22	042	#34;	"	66	42	102	#66;	B
3	3	003	ETX (end of text)	35	23	043	#35;	#	67	43	103	#67;	C
4	4	004	EOT (end of transmission)	36	24	044	#36;	\$	68	44	104	#68;	D
5	5	005	ENQ (enquiry)	37	25	045	#37;	%	69	45	105	#69;	E
6	6	006	ACK (acknowledge)	38	26	046	#38;	&	70	46	106	#70;	F
7	7	007	BEL (bell)	39	27	047	#39;	'	71	47	107	#71;	G
8	8	010	BS (backspace)	40	28	050	#40;	(	72	48	110	#72;	H
9	9	011	TAB (horizontal tab)	41	29	051	#41;	)	73	49	111	#73;	I
10	A	012	LF (line feed, new line)	42	2A	052	#42;	*	74	4A	112	#74;	J
11	B	013	VT (vertical tab)	43	2B	053	#43;	+	75	4B	113	#75;	K
12	C	014	FF (form feed, new page)	44	2C	054	#44;	,	76	4C	114	#76;	L
13	D	015	CR (carriage return)	45	2D	055	#45;	-	77	4D	115	#77;	M
14	E	016	SO (shift out)	46	2E	056	#46;	.	78	4E	116	#78;	N
15	F	017	SI (shift in)	47	2F	057	#47;	/	79	4F	117	#79;	O
16	10	020	DLE (data link escape)	48	30	060	#48;	0	80	50	120	#80;	P
17	11	021	DC1 (device control 1)	49	31	061	#49;	1	81	51	121	#81;	Q
18	12	022	DC2 (device control 2)	50	32	062	#50;	2	82	52	122	#82;	R
19	13	023	DC3 (device control 3)	51	33	063	#51;	3	83	53	123	#83;	S
20	14	024	DC4 (device control 4)	52	34	064	#52;	4	84	54	124	#84;	T
21	15	025	NAK (negative acknowledge)	53	35	065	#53;	5	85	55	125	#85;	U
22	16	026	SYN (synchronous idle)	54	36	066	#54;	6	86	56	126	#86;	V
23	17	027	ETB (end of trans. block)	55	37	067	#55;	7	87	57	127	#87;	W
24	18	030	CAN (cancel)	56	38	070	#56;	8	88	58	130	#88;	X
25	19	031	EM (end of medium)	57	39	071	#57;	9	89	59	131	#89;	Y
26	1A	032	SUB (substitute)	58	3A	072	#58;	:	90	5A	132	#90;	Z
27	1B	033	ESC (escape)	59	3B	073	#59;	;	91	5B	133	#91;	[
28	1C	034	FS (file separator)	60	3C	074	#60;	<	92	5C	134	#92;	\
29	1D	035	GS (group separator)	61	3D	075	#61;	=	93	5D	135	#93;]
30	1E	036	RS (record separator)	62	3E	076	#62;	>	94	5E	136	#94;	^
31	1F	037	US (unit separator)	63	3F	077	#63;	?	95	5F	137	#95;	_

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Unit Conversion

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Dec	Hx	Oct	Html	Chr
96	60	140	`	`
97	61	141	a	a
98	62	142	b	b
99	63	143	c	c
100	64	144	d	d
101	65	145	e	e
102	66	146	f	f
103	67	147	g	g
104	68	150	h	h
105	69	151	i	i
106	6A	152	j	j
107	6B	153	k	k
108	6C	154	l	l
109	6D	155	m	m
110	6E	156	n	n
111	6F	157	o	o
112	70	160	p	p
113	71	161	q	q
114	72	162	r	r
115	73	163	s	s
116	74	164	t	t
117	75	165	u	u
118	76	166	v	v
119	77	167	w	w
120	78	170	x	x
121	79	171	y	y
122	7A	172	z	z

Now look at lower case a which has a decimal of 97 and a hex of 61
 a dec 97 and hex 61 is translated to binary 0110 0001 (note that
 with the 8421 the 4 and 2 are turned on)

b is hex 62 which is binary 0110 0010
 i is hex 69 which is binary 0110 1001
 j is hex 6A which is binary 0110 1010
 o is hex 6F which is binary 0110 1111
 p is hex 70 which is binary 0111 0000
 z is hex 7A which is binary 0111 1010

Again we see several patterns. The first three characters are 011
 which appears in all lower case letters.

So the first three characters of the binary tell the group such as
 upper or lower case or numbers and the right most 5 characters are
 telling which one. Notice that the last 5 are the same for A and
 a, for B and b, for J and j, for P and p and for Z and z.

So if you get a dump of memory in hex you can turn it into binary
 and the use the first three characters to tell you what group it
 is in and the last five characters to tell which one.

O or o is 01111 when we look at the last 5 characters so the 8,4,2
 and 1 are on which adds up to 15 and o is the fifteenth letter of
 the alphabet

Z or z is 11010 so that means the 16 is on, the 8 is on and the 2
 is on which adds up to 26 and Z is the twenty sixth letter.

Dec	Hx	Oct	Html	Chr
64	40	100	@	@
65	41	101	A	A
66	42	102	B	B
67	43	103	C	C
68	44	104	D	D
69	45	105	E	E
70	46	106	F	F
71	47	107	G	G
72	48	110	H	H
73	49	111	I	I
74	4A	112	J	J
75	4B	113	K	K
76	4C	114	L	L
77	4D	115	M	M
78	4E	116	N	N
79	4F	117	O	O
80	50	120	P	P
81	51	121	Q	Q
82	52	122	R	R
83	53	123	S	S
84	54	124	T	T
85	55	125	U	U
86	56	126	V	V
87	57	127	W	W
88	58	130	X	X
89	59	131	Y	Y
90	5A	132	Z	Z

So now look at Decimal. A is a decimal 65 so now we need to translate that to decimal. We do that by writing the powers of 2 under each of the 8 binary bits. See the examples below and you will see that if you translate decimal or if you transfer hex you end up with the same 8 bit binary code for the letters.

128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
-----	----	----	----	---	---	---	---

This is A

0 1 0 0 0 0 0 1

128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
-----	----	----	----	---	---	---	---

Z is 90 which is

0 1 0 1 1 0 1 0

128	64	32	16	8	4	2	1
-----	----	----	----	---	---	---	---