

# Compare strings by case

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Here's one method of comparing strings by case in MySQL. You can use the `md5` function to hash the string and compare to its lower case value.

This example is for checking for usernames that are not lower case in moodle.

```
select username, md5(username), md5(lower(username))
from mdl_user
where deleted = 0 and suspended = 0
and md5(username) != md5(lower(username));
```

If the `md5` hash when the string is lower cased is different to the current md5 hash it will be returned and indicates a mismatch.

The `md5` hash is also handy when comparing values that might have invisible characters in them.

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