# NSSpecifierTest Class Reference

**Cocoa > Scripting & Automation**

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# NSSpecifierTest Class Reference

| | |
|---|---|
| **Inherits from** | NSScriptWhoseTest : NSObject |
| **Conforms to** | NSCoding (NSScriptWhoseTest)<br>NSObject (NSObject) |
| **Framework** | /System/Library/Frameworks/Foundation.framework |
| **Availability** | Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later. |
| **Companion guide** | Cocoa Scripting Guide |
| **Declared in** | NSScriptWhoseTests.h |

## Overview

Instances of this class represent a Boolean expression; they evaluate an object specifier and compare the resulting object to another object using a given comparison method. For more information on `NSSpecifierTest`, see the method description for its sole public method, its initializer, `initWithObjectSpecifier:comparisonOperator:testObject:` (page 6).

When an `NSSpecifierTest` object is properly initialized, it holds two objects:

- A "value" or "test" object used as the basis of the comparison; this object can be a regular object or object specifier (such as "blue" in "words whose color is blue").
- An object specifier evaluating to the container ("words").

The instance also encapsulates a selector identifying the method performing this comparison. The informal protocol `NSComparisonMethods` defines a set of comparison methods useful for this purpose, while `NSScriptingComparisonMethods` describes additional methods you may need to use for scripting.

The test object is compared, using the selector, against each object in the container. Specifiers in these tests usually have `containerIsObjectBeingTested` invoked on their topmost container.

You should rarely need to subclass `NSSpecifierTest`.


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# Tasks

## Initializing a Specifier Test

`- initWithObjectSpecifier:comparisonOperator:testObject:` (page 6)
Returns a specifier test initialized to evaluate a test object against an object specified by an object specifier using a given comparison operation.

# Instance Methods

## initWithObjectSpecifier:comparisonOperator:testObject:

Returns a specifier test initialized to evaluate a test object against an object specified by an object specifier using a given comparison operation.

```
- (id)initWithObjectSpecifier:(NSScriptObjectSpecifier *)obj1
    comparisonOperator:(NSTestComparisonOperation)compOp testObject:(id)obj2
```

**Parameters**

*obj1*
An object specifier.

*compOp*
The comparison operation.

*obj2*
The object against which to evaluate the object specified by *obj1*.

**Return Value**
A specifier test initialized to evaluate (*obj2*) against an object specified by *obj1* using the comparison operation *compOp*.

**Availability**
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

**Declared In**
`NSScriptWhoseTests.h`

# Constants

## NSTestComparisonOperation

These are passed to initWithObjectSpecifier:comparisonOperator:testObject: (page 6) to specify the comparison operator.


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```
typedef enum {
    NSEqualToComparison = 0,
    NSLessThanOrEqualToComparison,
    NSLessThanComparison,
    NSGreaterThanOrEqualToComparison,
    NSGreaterThanComparison,
    NSBeginsWithComparison,
    NSEndsWithComparison,
    NSContainsComparison
} NSTestComparisonOperation;
```

**Constants**

`NSEqualToComparison`

Binary comparison operator that results in `YES` if the two objects are equal.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSScriptWhoseTests.h`.

`NSLessThanOrEqualToComparison`

Binary comparison operator that results in `YES` if the value of the test object is equal to or less than the value of the other object.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSScriptWhoseTests.h`.

`NSLessThanComparison`

Binary comparison operator that results in `YES` if the value of the test object is less than the value of the other object.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSScriptWhoseTests.h`.

`NSGreaterThanOrEqualToComparison`

Binary comparison operator that results in `YES` if the value of the test object is greater than or equal to the value of the other object.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSScriptWhoseTests.h`.

`NSGreaterThanComparison`

Binary comparison operator that results in `YES` if the value of the test object is greater than the value of the other object.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSScriptWhoseTests.h`.

`NSBeginsWithComparison`

Binary containment operator that results in `YES` if the test object is a list or string that matches the beginning of the other object (which is also a list or string).

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSScriptWhoseTests.h`.

`NSEndsWithComparison`

Binary containment operator that results in `YES` if the test object is a list or string that matches the end of the other object (which is also a list or string).

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSScriptWhoseTests.h`.


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`NSContainsComparison`

Binary containment operator that results in `YES` if the test object is a list or string that matches the other object (which is also a list or string) at any location.

Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

Declared in `NSScriptWhoseTests.h`.

**Availability**
Available in Mac OS X v10.0 and later.

**Declared In**
`NSScriptWhoseTests.h`


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# Document Revision History

This table describes the changes to *NSSpecifierTest Class Reference*.

| Date | Notes |
| --- | --- |
| 2006-06-28 | Updated the Constants section to conform to reference consistency guidelines. |
| 2006-05-23 | First publication of this content as a separate document. |



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Document Revision History



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