
Locales

A locale is a set of defaults whose values are determined by the user's preferred language. The locale defaults are stored in the `NSUserDefaults`'s preferred language domain.

Certain classes from the Foundation Framework (for example, `NSDate`, `NSDateFormatter`, `NSString`, and `NSNumberFormatter`) use information from the locale to determine their values. For example, when you request an `NSString` representation of an `NSDate`, the `NSDateFormatter` looks at the locale to determine what the months and the days of the week are called in the user's preferred language.

The actual attributes for the locale keys are contained in `NSBundle`'s `Resources/Locales`. If a given language does not define one of the locale attributes, the value for that attribute defaults to the one defined for the default language (US English).

The Foundation Framework defines these locale dictionary keys. Other frameworks may add other keys to the locale dictionary.

Key	Description
NSAMPMDesignation	An array of strings that specify how the morning and afternoon designations are printed. The default is AM and PM.
NSCurrencySymbol	A string that specifies the symbol used to denote currency in this language. The default is "\$".
NSDateFormatString	A format string that specifies how dates are printed using the date format specifiers. (See the <code>NSDateCalendarDate</code> class specification for a list of these.) The default is to use weekday names with full month names and full years, as in "Sunday, January 01, 1995."
NSDateTimeOrdering	A string that specifies how to use ambiguous numbers in date strings. Specify this value as a permutation of the letters M (month), D (day), Y (year), and H (hour). For example, MDYH treats "2/3/95 10" as the 3rd day of February 1995 at 10:00am, whereas DMYH treats the same value as the 2nd day of March 1995 at 10:00am. If fewer numbers are specified than are needed, the numbers are prioritized to satisfy day first, then the month, and then the year. For example, if you supply only the value 12, it means the 12th day of this month in this year because the day must be specified. If you supply "2 12" it means either February 12 or December 2, depending on if the ordering is "MDYH" or "DMYH."
NSDecimalDigits	Strings that identify the decimal digits in addition to or instead of the ASCII digits.
NSDecimalSeparator	A string that specifies the decimal separator. The decimal separator separates the ones place from the tenths place. The default is ".".
NSEarlierTimeDesignations	An array of strings that denote a time in the past. These are adjectives that modify values from <code>NSYearMonthWeekDesignations</code> . The defaults are "prior," "last," "past," and "ago."
NSHourNameDesignations	Strings that identify the time of day. These strings should be bound to an hour. The default is this array of arrays: (0, midnight), (12, noon, lunch), (10, morning), (14, afternoon), (19, dinner).
NSInternationalCurrencyString	A string containing three letter abbreviation for currency, following the ISO 4217 standard.
NSLaterTimeDesignations	An array of strings that denote a time in the future. This is an adjective that modifies a value from <code>NSYearMonthWeekDesignations</code> . The default is "next."
NSMonthNameArray	An array that specifies the full names for the months.
NSNextDayDesignations	A string that identifies the day after today. The default is "tomorrow."
NSNextNextDayDesignations	A string that identifies the day after tomorrow. The default is "nextday".
NSPriorDayDesignations	A string that identifies the day before today. The default is "yesterday."
NSShortDateFormatString	A format string that specifies how dates are abbreviated. (See the <code>NSDateCalendarDate</code> class specification for a list of the date format

specifiers to use.) The default is to separate the day month and year with slashes and to put the day first, as in 31/10/95.

NSShortMonthNameArray	An array that specifies the abbreviations for the months.
NSShortWeekDayNameArray	An array that specifies the abbreviations for the days of the week. Sunday should be the first day of the week.
NSShortTimeDateFormatString	A format string that specifies how times and dates are abbreviated. (See the <code>NSDate</code> class specification for a list of the date format specifiers.) The default is to use dashes to separate the day, month, and year and to use a 12-hour clock, as in "31-Jan-95 1:30 PM."
NSThisDayDesignations	A string that identifies what this day is called. The default is "today."
NSThousandsSeparator	A string that specifies the separator character for the thousands place of a decimal number. The default is a comma.
NSTimeDateFormatString	A format string how dates with times are printed. (See the <code>NSDate</code> class specification for a list of the date format specifiers.) The default is to use abbreviated months and days with a 24 hour clock, as in "Sun Jan 01 23:00:00 +6 2001."
NSTimeFormatString	A format string how dates with times are printed. (See the <code>NSDate</code> class specification for a list of the date format specifiers.) The default is to use a 24 hour clock, as in 13:30:25.
NSWeekDayNameArray	An array that gives the names for the days of the week. Sunday should be the first day of the week.
NSYearMonthWeekDesignations	An array of strings that specify the word for year, month, and week in the current locale. The defaults are "year," "month," and "week."