

## Change MySQL default character set to UTF-8

To set the default to UTF-8, you want to add the following to my.cnf or my.ini for Windows

```
1 [mysqld]
2 collation-server = utf8_general_ci
3 character-set-server = utf8
```

If you want to change the character set for an existing DB, you can use following code:

```
1 ALTER DATABASE databasename CHARACTER SET utf8 COLLATE utf8_general_ci;
2 ALTER TABLE tablename CONVERT TO CHARACTER SET utf8 COLLATE utf8_general_ci;
```