

# Slaying Some Earthly Demons - remove UB 28, 29

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## Undefined Behavior:

(28) A universal character name in an identifier does not designate a character whose encoding falls into one of the specified ranges.

(29) The initial character of an identifier is a universal character name designating a digit.

## Analysis:

§6.4.3.1 states: “Each character and universal character name in an identifier shall designate a character whose encoding in ISO/IEC 10646 has the `XID_Continue` property. The initial character (which can be a universal character name) shall designate a character whose encoding in ISO/IEC 10646 has the `XID_Start` property. An identifier shall conform to Normalization Form C as specified in ISO/IEC 10646. Annex D provides an overview of the conforming identifiers.”

However, this provision appears under the section labeled “Semantics.” Meanwhile, §4 of the standard states: “If a ‘shall’ or ‘shall not’ requirement that appears outside of a constraint or runtime-constraint is violated, the behavior is undefined.”

## Recommendation:

The above provision should be relocated under a “Constraints” section.

This change eliminates the following entries from Annex J.2, as the behaviors they describe become diagnosable constraint violations rather than undefined behavior:

(28) A universal character name in an identifier does not designate a character whose encoding falls into one of the specified ranges.

(29) The initial character of an identifier is a universal character name designating a digit.

If this proposal is accepted, the above entries should be removed from Annex J.2.

## Suggested Rewording:

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### 6.4.3 Identifiers

#### 6.4.3.1 General

##### Syntax

identifier:

identifier-start  
identifier identifier-continue

identifier-start:

nondigit  
`XID_Start` character  
universal character name of class `XID_Start`

identifier-continue:

digit  
nondigit  
`XID_Continue` character  
universal character name of class `XID_Continue`

nondigit: one of

`_ a b c d e f g h i j k l m`  
`n o p q r s t u v w x y z`  
`A B C D E F G H I J K L M`  
`N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z`

digit: one of

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

### **Constraints**

Each character and universal character name in an identifier shall designate a character whose encoding in ISO/IEC 10646 has the `XID_Continue` property. The initial character (which can be a universal character name) shall designate a character whose encoding in ISO/IEC 10646 has the `XID_Start` property. An identifier shall conform to Normalization Form C as specified in ISO/IEC 10646. Annex D provides an overview of the conforming identifiers.

### **Semantics**

An `XID_Start` character is an implementation-defined character whose corresponding code point in ISO/IEC 10646 has the `XID_Start` property. An `XID_Continue` character is an implementation-defined character whose corresponding code point in ISO/IEC 10646 has the `XID_Continue` property. An identifier is a sequence of one identifier start character followed by 0 or more identifier continue characters, which designates one or more entities as described in 6.2.1. It is implementation-defined if a \$ (U+0024, DOLLAR SIGN) may be used as a nondigit character. Lowercase and uppercase letters are distinct. There is no specific limit on the maximum length of an identifier.

The character classes `XID_Start` and `XID_Continue` are Derived Core Properties as described by UAX #44.<sup>64</sup> Each character and universal character name in an identifier shall designate a character whose encoding in ISO/IEC 10646 has the `XID_Continue` property. The initial character (which can be a universal character name) shall designate a character whose encoding in ISO/IEC 10646 has the `XID_Start` property. An identifier shall conform to Normalization Form C as specified in ISO/IEC 10646. Annex D provides an overview of the conforming identifiers.

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