ALGORITHM 2.4 Top-down mergesort

```
public class Merge
{  // Top-down mergesort.
   private static Comparable[] aux;      // auxiliary array for merges

   public static void sort(Comparable[] a)
   {
      aux = new Comparable[a.length];    // Allocate space just once.
      sort(a, 0, a.length - 1);
   }

   private static void sort(Comparable[] a, int lo, int hi)
   {  // Sort a[lo..hi].
      if (hi <= lo) return;
      int mid = lo + (hi - lo)/2;
      sort(a, lo, mid);       // Sort left half.
      sort(a, mid+1, hi);     // Sort right half.
      merge(a, lo, mid, hi);  // Merge results (code on page 178).
   }
}
```

To sort a subarray `a[lo..hi]` we divide it into two parts `a[lo..mid]` and `a[mid+1..hi]`, sort them independently (via recursive calls), and merge the resulting ordered subarrays to produce the result.

	a[]														
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	M	E	R	G	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 0, 0, 1)	E	M	R	G	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 2, 2, 3)	E	M	G	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 0, 1, 3)	E	G	M	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 4, 4, 5)	E	G	M	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 6, 6, 7)	E	G	M	R	E	S	O	R	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 4, 5, 7)	E	G	M	R	E	O	R	S	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 0, 3, 7)	E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	T	E	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 8, 8, 9)	E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	E	T	X	A	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 10, 10, 11)	E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	E	T	A	X	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 8, 9, 11)	E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	T	X	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 12, 12, 13)	E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	T	X	M	P	L	E
merge(a, 14, 14, 15)	E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	T	X	M	P	E	L
merge(a, 12, 13, 15)	E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	T	X	E	L	M	P
merge(a, 8, 11, 15)	E	E	G	M	O	R	R	S	A	E	E	L	M	P	T	X
merge(a, 0, 7, 15)	A	E	E	E	E	G	L	M	M	O	P	R	R	S	T	X

Trace of merge results for top-down mergesort