

Assignment Title: Understanding object comparison and String Immutability in Java.

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Question 1: What is the difference between `a.equals(b)`; and `a=b` in Java?

In Java, object comparison can be done using either `==` operator or the `.equals()` method. Although they may appear to serve the same purpose, they behave quite differently.

a. The `==` operator:

This operator checks whether two references point to the same memory location. It is used for reference comparison, not content comparison.

i) For primitive data types, `==` checks actual values.

ii) For objects, it checks whether both references refer to the same object in memory.

Example:

```
String a = new String("Hello");
```

```
String b = new String("Hello");
```

```
System.out.println(a==b); // false, because  
they are two different objects
```

b. The `equals()` Method:

The `equals()` method is used to compare the content or values of two objects. It is defined in the object class and can be overridden by the custom classes.

- This checks whether the sequences of characters in the string are the same.
- In most wrapper and custom classes, `equals()` is overridden to check value equality.

Example:

```
String a = new String("Hello");
```

```
String b = new String("Hello");
```

```
System.out.println(a.equals(b)); // true, because  
the content is the same.
```


Question 02: Why are Java String Immutable?

Java Strings are immutable, which means once a string object is created, its value can not be changed. Any operation that appears to modify a String actually creates a new string objects.

Reasons for Immutable:

- Strings are used in many sensitive places like usernames, passwords, and URLs.
- Java optimizes memory usages by storing String literals in a String pool.
- Multiple threads can safely access strings without synchronization.

Conclusion: String immutability is a key design decision in Java. It ensures safety, efficiency and performance. It also simplifies the use of strings in multithreaded and security-sensitive applications.