

Relations and equality

Relations between two numeric expressions are determined using the following operators:

- > greater than
- >= greater than or equal to
- < less than
- <= less than or equal to

You can test if two operands (primitive or objects) are equal using the two operators:

- == equal to
- != not equal to

For non-primitive objects (i.e. for those that are not numeric or `boolean`) the operators "==" and "!=" test if the two operands are the same object rather than *two objects with equal contents*. To compare the contents of two objects, e.g. two strings, you should use the function `equals()`.

For example, to test if the string message `msg` equals "Wake up!" you should write:

```
msg.equals( "Wake up!" )
```

Do not confuse the equality operator "==" with the assignment operator "="!

`a = 5` means assign value of 5 to the variable `a`, whereas

`a == 5` is `true` if `a` equals 5 and `false` otherwise

The result of all comparison operations is of `boolean` type (`true` or `false`).