Learning Experience

In project 5 for CMCS 204 we learned how to implement binary trees, and I learned another useful data structure. At first binary trees can look daunting, but they are a very useful data structure that helps organize data in a hierarchy system. The hardest part of understanding binary trees were the recursive methods that recursively added nodes, fetched nodes, and so on. I am used to implementing methods iteratively, so this came up as challenge. When I broke down the method into separate steps then I was able to better understand my end goals.

There were some methods that I found confusing and some I found simple to create. The recursive methods were the hardest to picture mentally. What I found helped was writing down the steps of each iteration so I could figure out my goal at the end. Other methods such as the entire MorseCodeConverter class I found very simple to implement, although I did have some trouble with the static methods. I am glad to have been able to complete this project as I am usually not the best at recursion.

If there were things I could do differently on my program I would have liked to write more well thought out tests. Like most of the projects this semester, the tests on this project had little to no impact on my implementation of most methods in this program. Usually tests are supposed to help you write your code, and make sure you program is bug free. I believe that well thought out tests would me write better code. Overall, I believe good programming comes from testing your code thoroughly.