In general, both equals() and “==” operator in Java are used to compare objects to check equality but here are some of the differences between the two: 

1. The main difference between the .equals() method and == operator is that one is a method and the other is the operator.
2. We can use == operators for reference comparison (address comparison) and .equals() method for content comparison. In simple words, == checks if both objects point to the same memory location whereas .equals() evaluates to the comparison of values in the objects.
3. If a class does not [override the equals method](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/overriding-equals-method-in-java/), then by default it uses the equals(Object o) method of the closest parent class that has overridden this method. See [this](https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/override-equalsobject-hashcode-method/)for detail

Example

public class Test {

    public static void main(String[] args)

    {

        String s1 = "HELLO";

        String s2 = "HELLO";

        String s3 =  new String("HELLO");

        System.out.println(s1 == s2); // true

        System.out.println(s1 == s3); // false

        System.out.println(s1.equals(s2)); // true

        System.out.println(s1.equals(s3)); // true

    }

}