Encapsulation

- Preface class definition with comment on how to use class

- Declare all instance variables in the class as private.

- Provide public accessor methods to retrieve data

- Provide public methods manipulating data

  - Such methods could include public mutator methods.

- Place a comment before each public method heading that fully specifies how to use method.

- Make any helping methods private.

- Write comments within class definition to describe implementation details.

Defining an **equals** Method

- We cannot use == to compare two objects

  - We must write a method for a given class which will

    make the comparison as needed

- The **equals** for a class method used same way as

  equals method for **String**