$$\diamondplus$$

Identity

1 Why

We can give the same object two different names.

2 Definition

An object *is* itself. If the object that two names refer to is the same, then we say that the first name *equals* the second name.

2.1 Notation

We denote that the object named a and the object named b refer to the same object by $a = b$, read aloud as: "a is b." We denote that the object a and b refer to different objects by $a \neq b$, read aloud as: "a is not b."

We may also read the notation $a = b$ aloud as "a equals b". Other English readings include: "a is the same as b", "a is equivalent to b", "a refers to the same object as b."