

# equals() overriding

## Rules for overriding equals()

- ① equals() must be reflexive.  
d1.equals(d1) must be true.
- ② equals() must be symmetric.  
if d1.equals(d2) is true,  
then d2.equals(d1) must be true.
- ③ equals() must be transitive.  
if d1.equals(d2) is true and  
d2.equals(d3) is true, then  
d1.equals(d3) must be true.
- ④ equals() must be consistent  
Result of d1.equals(d2) should  
remain same until any  
of the object state modified.
- ⑤ null comparison  
d1.equals(null) must be false.
- ⑥ Comparison with incompatible type.  
d1.equals("1-1-2024") must false

```
class Date {  
    private int d, m, y;  
    // constructors, getters/setters  
  
    public boolean equals(Object other) {  
        if (other == null)  
            return false; // rule 5  
        if (this == other)  
            return true; // rule 1  
        if (!(other instanceof Date))  
            return false; // rule 6  
  
        Date that = (Date) other;  
        if (this.d == that.d && this.m == that.m &&  
            this.y == that.y) // state comparison  
            return true;  
        return false;  
    }  
}
```