

Java

1. Difference Between

i) $(a == b)$

and

ii) $a.equals(b)$

Suppose a and b are String variables:

 $(a == b)$

- This compares references..

- It checks whether a and b point to the point of the exact

- Same object in memory.

Example:-

String $s1 = \text{"Hello"};$ String $s2 = \text{"Hello"};$ System.out.println($s1 == s2$);

But;

```
String s3 = new String("Hello");
```

```
System.out.println(s1 == s3);
```

ii) `a.equals(b)`

- This compares the contents.

- It checks whether the text inside the strings is the same.

Example:

```
String s1 = "Hello";
```

```
String s3 = new String("Hello");
```

```
System.out.println(s1.equals(s3));
```

ii) Why are Java strings

Immutable?

Immutable means: Once a string is created, it cannot be changed.

① (i) Security:

①. Strings often store sensitive data (password, file paths).

- If strings were mutable, malicious code could change their content.

(ii) String Pool (memory optimization)

- Java maintains a pool of strings to save memory.

- If strings could be changed, this pool wouldn't be

safe, because one change would affect all references.

(iii) thread safety

i) Immutable objects are automatically safe to use across multiple threads.

(iv) cache in hashcode

Because the string can never change, its hashcode

is cached for fast lookup.