

first among equals jeffrey archer Study Guide

First Among Equals Jeffrey Archer: An In-Depth Exploration of the Iconic Novel and Its Impact

First among equals Jeffrey Archer is a phrase that resonates deeply in political and literary circles alike. It encapsulates the concept of a leader who, despite being part of a collective, stands out as the most influential or distinguished member. The phrase gained widespread popularity through Jeffrey Archer's acclaimed novel "First Among Equals," which masterfully explores the intricacies of political life, power dynamics, and leadership within the British Parliament. This article delves into the origins of the phrase, the themes and significance of Archer's novel, and its enduring impact on literature and political discourse.

Understanding the Origin of the Phrase "First Among Equals"

The Latin Roots and Historical Context

The phrase "First among equals" originates from the Latin expression "Primus inter pares," a concept rooted in ancient Roman and Greek political traditions. It describes a leader who holds a position of honor and authority but is considered equal in status to their peers in terms of rights and privileges.

Historically, the phrase was used to describe the role of the British Prime Minister within the Cabinet, emphasizing the leader's primacy without formal superiority over other ministers. This concept underscores the importance of collective decision-making and the leader's ability to guide without overshadowing peers.

Adoption in Modern Political Discourse

In contemporary times, "First among equals" has been employed to describe various leadership roles, especially in parliamentary systems. It emphasizes humility, collegiality, and shared responsibility—core values in democratic governance.

However, the phrase also hints at the paradox of leadership: the balance between authority and equality, a theme that Jeffrey Archer explores extensively in his novel.

Jeffrey Archer's "First Among Equals": An Overview

Introduction to the Novel

Published in 1984, "First Among Equals" is a political drama that traces the careers of four British Members of Parliament (MPs) over several decades. The novel offers a detailed, character-driven narrative that examines their personal ambitions, moral dilemmas, and the complex machinery of political power.

Archer's storytelling combines meticulous research with compelling character development, creating a vivid portrayal of the British political landscape from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Plot Summary and Key Themes

The novel follows four main characters:

- Matthew Crompton: An idealistic MP with a leadership drive.
- Henry Packer: A pragmatic and ambitious politician.
- Robin Brooke: A charismatic and principled figure.
- Gordon Carpenter: An experienced and shrewd politician.

Over the course of their careers, these characters face various challenges, including:

- Political rivalries
- Personal betrayals
- Ethical dilemmas
- The struggle for power and influence

The narrative culminates in a pivotal leadership contest, where the question of who is truly "first among equals" is examined.

Major themes include:

- The nature of leadership and power
- Political integrity and corruption
- Personal ambition versus public service
- The complexities of parliamentary democracy

Significance and Impact

"First Among Equals" is regarded as one of Jeffrey Archer's most ambitious and insightful works. It provides readers with:

- An insider's view of British politics
- A nuanced exploration of human character and ambition
- A reflection on the responsibilities that come with leadership

The novel's portrayal of political life has resonated with readers, scholars, and politicians alike, making it a classic in political fiction.

The Literary Style and Techniques Used by Jeffrey Archer

Character-Driven Narrative

Archer's focus on detailed character development allows readers to see the multifaceted personalities behind political façades. Each character's motivations and flaws are explored deeply, creating an engaging and authentic story.

Realistic Political Setting

Drawing from his own experience as a politician and his extensive research, Archer constructs a believable and immersive depiction of Westminster politics. This realism enhances the novel's credibility and appeal.

Use of Multiple Perspectives

The novel employs a multi-perspective approach, allowing readers to understand different viewpoints within the political arena. This technique underscores the complexity of leadership and the diversity of opinions among politicians.

Suspense and Ethical Dilemmas

Archer masterfully integrates suspenseful moments and moral questions, keeping readers engaged and prompting them to ponder the true meaning of leadership and integrity.

The Relevance of "First Among Equals" in Modern Context

Political Leadership and Responsibility

The novel's exploration of leadership remains highly relevant today. It raises questions such as:

- What qualities make a good leader?
- How do personal ambition and ethical considerations intersect?

- Can true equality coexist with hierarchical leadership?

These questions are pertinent in contemporary political debates worldwide.

Insights into Power Dynamics

"First Among Equals" offers a lens to understand the subtle and overt ways power is exercised, negotiated, and challenged within political institutions. It highlights the importance of integrity and accountability in leadership roles.

Influence on Political Fiction and Literature

Archer's work has inspired countless writers and has become a benchmark for political novels. Its combination of realism, character depth, and thematic richness sets a standard for political storytelling.

Legacy and Continued Relevance

Impact on Readers and Politicians

Many readers have found "First Among Equals" insightful into the machinations of politics, while politicians have cited it as a reflection of their experiences. Its portrayal of leadership has sparked discussions on ethical governance.

Adaptations and Cultural Influence

While primarily known as a novel, the themes of "First Among Equals" have influenced:

- Political discourse
- Leadership training
- Other literary works exploring similar themes

Although it has not been officially adapted into a film or series, its influence persists through references in political education and commentary.

Why "First Among Equals" Remains a Must-Read

- Offers timeless insights into leadership and ambition
- Provides a detailed portrayal of British political life

- Encourages reflection on ethical governance
- Combines compelling storytelling with political analysis

Conclusion

"First Among Equals" Jeffrey Archer stands as a seminal work in the genre of political fiction, capturing the complexities of leadership, power, and human ambition. Its exploration of what it truly means to be "first among equals" remains profoundly relevant in today's political landscape. Whether you are a lover of literature, a student of politics, or an aspiring leader, Archer's novel provides valuable lessons wrapped in engaging storytelling. Its enduring legacy testifies to the power of well-crafted fiction to illuminate the realities of governance and the timeless quest for true leadership.

First Among Equals Jeffrey Archer: An In-Depth Examination of a Literary and Cultural Phenomenon

Introduction

In the landscape of contemporary British literature, few authors have managed to carve out a space as distinctive as Jeffrey Archer. Known for his compelling storytelling, intricate plotting, and ability to weave complex characters into captivating narratives, Archer has cemented himself as a prominent figure in the realm of modern fiction. Among his myriad works, the phrase "First Among Equals" resonates not only as a title but as a thematic lens through which to analyze his career, influence, and the cultural implications of his writing. This investigative article delves into the life of Jeffrey Archer, the significance of "First Among Equals," and the broader implications of his work in literature and society.

Biographical Overview: From Businessman to Bestseller

Jeffrey Archer's journey from a Cambridge graduate and former politician to a bestselling novelist is as compelling as the plots he crafts. Born in 1940 in London, Archer's early ambitions were rooted in politics, and he swiftly rose through the ranks of the Conservative Party, becoming a Member of Parliament and later a peer in the House of Lords. However, his career faced a dramatic upheaval when he was convicted of perjury and perverting the course of justice in 2001, leading to a prison sentence that temporarily overshadowed his literary achievements.

Despite these controversies, Archer's resilience saw him return to writing, and his novels continued to sell worldwide. His background in politics and business provides a rich tapestry of experience that informs his storytelling, often infused with themes of power, ambition, and morality.

The Genesis of "First Among Equals"

Published in 1984, "First Among Equals" is one of Archer's most celebrated works, often regarded as a masterful political novel. The book is a detailed fictional account of the careers of four British politicians—each representing different constituencies, ideologies, and personal backgrounds—as they vie for leadership within the Conservative Party and, ultimately, the Prime Ministership.

The title itself, "First Among Equals," is a Latin phrase ("Primus inter pares") traditionally used to describe the Prime Minister's role within the cabinet, emphasizing leadership balanced with collegiality. Archer's novel explores this delicate balance of power, loyalty, and rivalry among political peers, making it both a political drama and a philosophical inquiry into leadership.

Deep Dive: Themes and Political Allegory

Power and Ambition

At its core, "First Among Equals" examines how ambition can both propel individuals to greatness and corrupt their moral compass. Archer portrays characters driven by dreams of influence, yet also susceptible to ethical compromises. Through this lens, the novel questions whether true leadership is about service or self-interest.

Class and Society

Although set against the backdrop of British politics, the novel also subtly critiques social stratification. The protagonists' backgrounds influence their perspectives and opportunities, reflecting the class dynamics pervasive in UK society. Archer's nuanced characterizations reveal how societal privilege and personal ambition intertwine.

Leadership and Responsibility

The phrase "First Among Equals" encapsulates the notion that leadership involves responsibility, humility, and service. Archer explores this through the internal struggles of his characters, especially as they navigate political crises, personal betrayals, and ethical dilemmas.

Critical Reception and Literary Significance

"First Among Equals" was lauded for its detailed character development, realistic portrayal of political processes, and engaging narrative style. Critics appreciated Archer's ability to blend fact and fiction seamlessly, creating a compelling commentary on British politics of the era. The novel's meticulous research and vivid characterization have made it a staple in political fiction.

Moreover, the book's influence extends beyond literature into political discourse, often cited in discussions about leadership, governance, and the nature of power. Its portrayal of political rivalry

and camaraderie remains relevant in contemporary debates about political integrity and institutional loyalty.

Controversies and Ethical Dimensions

Archer's career has not been without controversy. His criminal conviction in 2001 for perjury and perverting the course of justice cast a shadow over his literary reputation. Critics and supporters alike have debated whether his personal misdeeds diminish the value of his work.

In relation to "First Among Equals," some argue that Archer's own experiences with legal and political corruption lend authenticity to his portrayal of power struggles. Others contend that his personal failings highlight the discrepancy between idealized leadership and its often-corrupt reality.

The Impact of Archer's Personal Life on His Literature

Archer's tumultuous personal life—marked by financial troubles, legal battles, and political ambitions—has undoubtedly influenced his writing. His firsthand experience of political machinations and societal pressures lends a layer of realism to his novels.

Notably, his incarceration and subsequent return to writing demonstrate resilience and a complex relationship with fame and infamy. These themes of redemption and moral ambiguity echo throughout his works, including "First Among Equals."

Legacy and Cultural Impact

Jeffrey Archer's contribution to political fiction is undeniable. His ability to craft narratives that are both entertaining and thought-provoking has earned him a dedicated readership and critical recognition.

"First Among Equals" in particular remains a significant cultural artifact, offering insights into the nature of leadership, loyalty, and the human condition within the political arena. Its themes have resonated with readers and politicians alike, prompting discussions about the real meaning of being "first among equals."

List of Key Themes and Motifs in "First Among Equals"

- Power Dynamics and Rivalry
- Ethical Dilemmas and Personal Integrity
- Class and Social Mobility
- Leadership and Humility

- Loyalty and Betrayal
- Public versus Private Persona
- The Role of Media in Politics
- Personal Ambition versus National Interest

Conclusion: The Enduring Relevance of Jeffrey Archer's "First Among Equals"

"First Among Equals" exemplifies Jeffrey Archer's mastery in storytelling, combining meticulous research, compelling characters, and a nuanced exploration of political life. Despite the controversies surrounding his personal conduct, Archer's work continues to influence readers, writers, and political thinkers.

The novel's exploration of leadership's true nature remains pertinent today, as societies worldwide grapple with issues of power, integrity, and responsibility. Archer's portrayal of political rivalry, tempered by themes of morality and humility, prompts reflection on what it truly means to lead and serve.

As a cultural and literary touchstone, "First Among Equals" endures not only as a gripping political saga but as a mirror to the complex realities of human ambition and societal structures. Its enduring relevance underscores Jeffrey Archer's place in the pantheon of influential writers who have shaped political discourse through fiction.

In sum, "First Among Equals" is more than a novel; it is a commentary on leadership's challenges and the eternal struggle between personal ambition and public service—an exploration that continues to resonate in the corridors of power and the pages of literature.

Question What is the main theme of 'First Among Equals' by Jeffrey Archer? The novel explores the political career and personal lives of four British Prime Ministers, focusing on their leadership, challenges, and moral dilemmas, highlighting the concept of 'first among equals' in parliamentary democracy. **Answer** Who are the main characters in 'First Among Equals'? The story centers around four British politicians: Oliver Barrington, Hugh Marston, Charles Seymour, and Robert Stryker, each representing different political backgrounds and personal stories. How does Jeffrey Archer portray leadership in 'First Among Equals'? Archer depicts leadership as a complex balance of power, integrity, ambition, and personal sacrifice, illustrating how these qualities influence political decisions and personal relationships. Is 'First Among Equals' based on real historical events? While the novel is a work of fiction, it draws inspiration from real political events and figures, providing a realistic portrayal of British politics during the 20th century. What controversies or criticisms has 'First Among Equals' faced? Some critics have pointed out that the novel simplifies complex political issues and characters, but it remains popular for its engaging storytelling and insight into political life. Where does 'First Among Equals' fit within Jeffrey Archer's body of work? It is part of Archer's series of political novels, showcasing his talent for combining storytelling with insights into power,

leadership, and human nature. What lessons can readers learn from 'First Among Equals'? Readers can learn about the intricacies of political leadership, the importance of integrity, and the personal sacrifices involved in public service. Has 'First Among Equals' been adapted into other media? As of now, 'First Among Equals' has not been officially adapted into a film or TV series, but it remains a popular book among fans of political fiction and Jeffrey Archer's works.

Related keywords: Jeffrey Archer, First Among Equals, political thriller, British politics, parliamentary drama, Jeffrey Archer books, leadership, political rivalry, UK politicians, legal intrigue

This Equals That

This equals that is a fundamental principle that resonates across various fields, from mathematics and physics to everyday reasoning and philosophical debates. Understanding what "this equals that" entails not only enhances our comprehension of numbers and equations but also deepens our grasp of logical relationships and equivalence in numerous contexts. In this article, we will explore the concept of equality, its significance, applications, and the nuances that make "this equals that" a cornerstone of rational thought.

Understanding the Concept of Equality

What Does "This Equals That" Mean?

At its core, "this equals that" signifies that two expressions, quantities, or concepts are identical in value, meaning, or significance. The symbol "=" represents this relationship, and it is fundamental in mathematics and logic.

For example:

- $2 + 2 = 4$
- The sum of the angles in a triangle = 180 degrees
- The chemical formula H_2O indicates that two hydrogen atoms equal one oxygen atom in the molecule

This simple statement establishes a relationship of equivalence, which is essential for reasoning, proof, and problem-solving.

The Types of Equality

Equality isn't a monolith; it has various forms depending on the context:

- **Mathematical Equality:** Two expressions have the same value, such as $5 + 3 = 8$.
- **Physical Equality:** Two objects are identical in size, shape, and properties, like two identical coins.
- **Logical Equality:** Statements that have the same truth value, e.g., "All humans are mortal" is logically equivalent to "If someone is human, then they are mortal."
- **Philosophical Equality:** Concepts of equality relating to fairness, rights, and justice.

Understanding these distinctions helps clarify how "this equals that" operates across disciplines.

The Role of Equality in Mathematics and Science

Mathematics: Foundations of Equivalence

Mathematics relies heavily on the principle of equality:

- Algebra: Equations are statements of equality that can be manipulated to find unknowns.
- Calculus: Limits and derivatives involve understanding when two expressions approach the same value.
- Number Theory: Concepts like modular arithmetic hinge on equivalence relations.

Mathematicians often define equivalence relations—relations that are reflexive, symmetric, and transitive—to classify elements into equivalence classes.

Physics: Conservation and Symmetry

In physics, the concept of "this equals that" underpins many fundamental principles:

- Conservation Laws: Energy, momentum, and charge are conserved; meaning, they remain equal before and after interactions.
- Symmetry: Physical laws remain invariant under certain transformations, indicating equivalence under specific conditions.

For instance, the principle of mass-energy equivalence, expressed as $E=mc^2$, establishes a profound connection between mass and energy, effectively making them two forms of the same entity.

Applications of "This Equals That" in Everyday Life

Financial Transactions

In finance, the equality principle ensures balance and fairness:

- Banking: Deposits must always balance with withdrawals, ensuring the ledger's integrity.
- Budgeting: Income equals expenses plus savings, maintaining financial stability.

Legal and Ethical Contexts

Legal principles often hinge on equality:

- Equal rights: All individuals are entitled to the same rights and protections under the law.
- Justice: Fair treatment implies that similar cases are treated equally.

Everyday Reasoning and Problem Solving

People constantly use the "this equals that" principle to make decisions:

- If two routes take the same time, choose the shorter or more scenic.
- If two products cost the same, consider quality or brand preference.

The Nuances and Limitations of Equality

Equality vs. Equivalence

While "this equals that" suggests strict sameness, sometimes what we mean is equivalence? similar but not identical. For example:

- Different units of measurement (meters vs. feet)
- Different cultural interpretations of fairness

Approximate Equality

In real-world scenarios, exact equality is rare. Instead, we often deal with approximate equality:

- Measurements within a margin of error
- Numerical calculations with rounding

Understanding when approximate equality suffices is vital in science and engineering.

Potential Pitfalls

Misinterpreting equality can lead to errors:

- Assuming two expressions are equal without verifying can cause incorrect conclusions.
- Overlooking the context of equality?such as units or conditions?can lead to misunderstandings.

Advanced Concepts Related to "This Equals That"

Equality in Logic and Computer Science

In programming, the equality operator (==) checks whether two values are identical:

- Used in conditionals and loops.
- Critical for algorithms and data validation.

In formal logic, equality is a fundamental relation that underpins proofs and theorem development.

Mathematical Equivalence and Isomorphism

Beyond simple equality, mathematicians consider structures that are equivalent in form:

- Isomorphism indicates a structural similarity, even if the objects are not strictly equal.
- For example, two graphs may be isomorphic if they have the same structure, even if labeled differently.

Conclusion: Embracing the Power of "This Equals That"

Understanding the principle of "this equals that" is essential across disciplines and daily life. It forms the backbone of logical reasoning, scientific discovery, and fair practices. Recognizing the different types of equality, their applications, and the potential pitfalls ensures precise thinking and effective problem-solving.

Whether in the abstract realm of mathematics or the tangible world of human interactions, the concept of equality helps us establish connections, verify truths, and maintain consistency. As we continue to explore and innovate, the fundamental idea that "this equals that" remains a guiding principle, reminding us of the importance of clarity, precision, and fairness in our pursuits.

Keywords: equality, mathematical equality, logical equivalence, physical equality, conservation laws, "this equals that," equivalence relations, approximate equality, isomorphism, programming, justice, fairness

This equals that: Deciphering the Mathematical and Scientific Foundations of Equivalence

In the realm of science and mathematics, the phrase "this equals that" encapsulates a fundamental principle: the concept of equivalence. Whether in equations, physical laws, or logical statements, understanding what it means for one thing to be equal to another is central to deciphering the universe's underlying structure. From simple arithmetic to complex theories in physics, the idea of equivalence serves as a cornerstone that bridges abstract concepts with tangible phenomena. In this article, we explore the depths of what "this equals that" entails, examining its mathematical foundations, applications across scientific disciplines, and philosophical implications.

The Mathematical Foundations of Equality

Defining Equality in Mathematics

At its core, equality is a relation between two quantities or expressions indicating that they are the same in value or meaning. Mathematically, it is symbolized by the equals sign ($=$). The statement " $a = b$ " asserts that the value of 'a' is identical to that of 'b' under specified conditions.

Key Attributes of Mathematical Equality:

- Reflexivity: Any quantity is equal to itself ($a = a$).
- Symmetry: If $a = b$, then $b = a$.
- Transitivity: If $a = b$ and $b = c$, then $a = c$.

These properties underpin the logical structure of mathematics, ensuring consistency and enabling complex derivations.

Types of Equality

While the basic concept remains the same, different contexts require nuanced understandings of equality:

- Numerical Equality: Indicates that two numbers are the same in value (e.g., $3 + 2 = 5$).
- Structural Equality: In computer science, two data structures are structurally equal if they have the same form and contents.
- Algebraic Equality: When two expressions are equal for all permissible values of variables (e.g., $(a + b)^2 = a^2 + 2ab + b^2$).
- Equivalence Relations: Broader classifications where entities are considered equivalent under certain criteria, such as congruence in geometry.

Understanding these distinctions is crucial when applying the concept of equality across different mathematical domains.

Equality in Physical Sciences: The Language of Conservation

The Principle of Conservation Laws

In physics, the idea that "this equals that" manifests through conservation laws, which state that certain properties remain invariant within isolated systems over time. These principles are foundational for understanding physical processes and form the backbone of theoretical models.

Major Conservation Laws:

- Conservation of Mass: In classical physics, mass remains constant in a closed system.
- Conservation of Energy: Energy cannot be created or destroyed, only transformed.
- Conservation of Momentum: The total momentum of an isolated system remains constant.

These laws often involve mathematical equations expressing equivalence. For example, the law of conservation of energy is expressed as:

$$\text{Total initial energy} = \text{Total final energy}$$

which illustrates that energy before and after a process remains equal, assuming no external influences.

Einstein's Mass-Energy Equivalence

Perhaps the most famous example of "this equals that" in physics is Einstein's equation:

$$E = mc^2$$

This equation states that energy (E) and mass (m) are interchangeable, connected by the speed of

light squared (c^2). It revolutionized our understanding of matter and energy, revealing that mass is a form of stored energy.

Implications:

- Nuclear reactions involve mass converting into energy.
- The equivalence principle underpins technologies like nuclear power and atomic weapons.
- It broadens the classical notion that mass and energy are separate entities, emphasizing their fundamental equivalence.

The Role of Units and Measurement

In scientific measurements, equality hinges on units. For example, stating that 1 kilogram equals 2.20462 pounds involves a conversion factor, emphasizing that "this" in one system can equal "that" in another, provided the correct conversion is applied.

"This Equals That": Logical and Philosophical Perspectives

Equivalence in Logic

In logic, the notion of equality extends to propositional and predicate logic, where statements can be equivalent if they always have the same truth value under all interpretations.

- Logical Equivalence: Two statements are logically equivalent if they are true in exactly the same models.
- For example, "If it is raining, then the ground is wet" is logically equivalent to "If the ground is not wet, then it is not raining" (by contrapositive).

This form of equivalence is crucial for constructing valid arguments and proofs.

Philosophical Considerations

The concept of "this equals that" also raises philosophical questions about identity and sameness. For instance:

- Identity of Indiscernibles: If two entities share all properties, are they the same?
- Relation of Equivalence: How do we determine when two different representations refer to the same entity?

These questions delve into the nature of reality, perception, and language, illustrating the depth behind what might seem straightforward.

Practical Applications and Examples

Engineering and Technology

- Circuit Design: Equivalence testing ensures that two different circuit configurations produce the same output.
- Data Validation: Checks for data integrity often involve verifying that two datasets are equivalent after transformations.

Computing and Software Development

- Equality Operators: Programming languages include operators (`==`, `===`) to test whether two variables or expressions are equal.
- Hashing and Checksums: Used to verify data integrity by comparing hash values.

Everyday Contexts

- Cooking Recipes: Different ingredients or methods can be equivalent in taste or nutritional value.
- Currency Conversion: Money amounts in different currencies are equivalent when adjusted by exchange rates.

Challenges and Limitations

While "this equals that" appears straightforward, practical issues can complicate matters:

- Approximate Equality: In numerical computations, due to rounding errors, two values may be nearly equal but not exactly.
- Context-Dependent Equality: Cultural, linguistic, or subjective factors may influence what is considered equivalent.
- Complexity in Formal Systems: In higher mathematics, notions like equivalence classes and quotient spaces are necessary to rigorously define and handle equality.

Conclusion: The Power and Precision of Equivalence

"This equals that" is more than a simple statement; it encapsulates a universal principle that underpins scientific understanding, mathematical reasoning, and logical deduction. Recognizing the nuances of equality—its definitions, applications, and limitations—allows us to navigate complex systems, develop technology, and explore philosophical questions about identity and reality.

From Einstein's profound insight into mass and energy to the meticulous checks in programming, the principle of equivalence remains central to our quest to comprehend and describe the universe. As science advances and systems grow more complex, the rigorous understanding of what "this equals that" entails will continue to be vital, ensuring clarity amidst complexity and precision in a world of infinite variables.

Question What does the phrase 'this equals that' commonly signify in programming? In programming, 'this equals that' often refers to assigning the value of one variable to another, such as using '=' in many languages, indicating that 'this' is being set to the value of 'that'. How can 'this equals that' be used in mathematical equations? In mathematics, 'this equals that' indicates equality between two expressions or values, such as ' $x + 2 = 5$ ', meaning the expression on the left is equal to the value on the right. Is 'this equals that' a common phrase in logical reasoning or philosophy? Yes, it can be used to express equivalence or identity between two concepts or statements, emphasizing that they are identical in meaning or value. Can 'this equals that' be used in everyday language or metaphors? Absolutely. People often use it metaphorically to suggest that two things are the same or interchangeable, like 'What you want is this, and that is what you need; they are essentially the same.' What are some common symbols used to denote 'this equals that' in scientific notation? The most common symbol is the equal sign '=', which indicates that the expressions or quantities on either side are equal in value or meaning.

Related keywords: identity, equality, equivalence, sameness, comparison, congruence, is equal to, identical, equal sign, equivalency

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