What are methods good for?

- **Package a unit of code**
  - A well-defined unit of work is named and packaged
  - If well named, aids in higher level design where method name becomes a proxy for the work.

- **Avoids Repetitive code**
  - Often sections of code are repeated or almost repeated many times
  - It is often possible to define a method to handle that section of code:
    - Write once
    - Use many times
  - Even if repeated code is not identical, can often make code flexible enough to handle all situations

How do methods communicate?

- **Method needs to communicate/share info with the rest of the program**
  - Instance variable provide for some of this.
    - Instance variables are “known” throughout the class
  - Parameter provide another way to get info to the method (without “broadcasting” it to the rest of the class.)
  - Return statements provide a way to get info out
- **Parameters and return each have their limitations**

Parameters

- **Parameters provide for communications**
  - Always work to get info into method
    - For primitive arguments, this is in only
  - Objects passed as parameters may allow info to get out
    - **IF**: using mutator methods allows us to change the object
    - **OR**: if object is array, use index specify change to an individual cell
  - Cannot change object like Strings
    - Strings immutable (and have no mutator methods)
Return Statement

- Return allows info to be copied out
  - Invoking statement or expression can use the result
  - Often result to assigned with an =
  - Result may be used in an expression or as an argument to at method

Examples to Illustrate use of Methods

- Return allows info to be copied out
  - Invoking statement or expression can use the result
  - Often result to assigned with an =
  - Result may be used in an expression or as an argument to at method

- Remember
  - “Parameter” in the method header that defines
  - “Argument” when using a method

Examples to Illustrate use of Methods

```
// from wackadot
// from handleCollisions
if (dot.intersects(blueDot)) {
    repositionRandomly(blueDot);
    if (dot.getColor().equals(Color.BLUE))
    {
        dot.setColor(Color.RED);
        score++;
    }
    else
    {
        score--;
    }
}
else {
    score--;
}
updateString(scoreSprite, "Score: ", score);
```

```
if (dot.intersects(redDot)){
    repositionRandomly(redDot);
    if (dot.getColor().equals(Color.RED))
    {
        dot.setColor(Color.BLUE);
        score++;
    }
    else{
        score--;
    }
}
else{
    score--;
}
updateString(scoreSprite, "Score: ", score);
```

Replace with

Write:
```
private void checkCollision (Sprite badDot, Color old, Color new){
    if (dot.intersects(badDot)){
        repositionRandomly(badDot);
        if (dot.getColor().equals(old))
        {
            dot.setColor(new);
            score++;
        }
        else{
            score--;
        }
    }
    else{
        score--;
    }
    updateString(scoreSprite, "Score: ", score);
}
```

Replace two if clauses on previous slide with:
```
checkCollision(blueDot, Color.BLUE, Color.RED);
checkCollision(redDot, Color.RED, Color.BLUE);
```