

Name: _____ Date: _____

Correct Capitalization

Capital letters are used to mark the beginning of sentences, to distinguish proper nouns from common nouns, and to indicate other words that deserve special attention. Here are some rules to help you use capitals correctly.

Capitalize the first word in every sentence.

Last weekend, we went to see an exhibit about frogs. Did you know that one tiny poison dart frog can contain enough poison to kill 10 adults?

Capitalize the first word of a direct quotation.

Stacy asked, "When are we leaving for vacation?"

"You know I don't like mushrooms," said Ethan.

Capitalize proper nouns. A proper noun names a *specific* person, place, thing, or idea.

I would love to travel to New Zealand, Hawaii, and Australia.

You will read about Anne Frank when you study World War II.

Jason went to the mall to buy Nike sneakers.

Capitalize titles like Mr., Ms., Dr., and official titles like Governor when they come directly before a name.

I sent a birthday card to Ms. Shaw.

Please give this envelope to Judge Anderson.

Lucy says that Dr. Becker called.

Capitalize titles when they are used instead of a name.

"Please ask Dad to call me after he drops you off," said my mom.

My grandmother just celebrated her 90th birthday. Go, Grandma!

"Nice to see you again, Captain," said Roger.

An activity on capitalization begins on the next page.

Directions: Correct the 17 capitalization errors in the letter below. Circle any letters that should be capitalized, and draw a slash through any letters that should be lowercase. Each letter counts as one mistake.

Dear Mom and dad,

Hello from Maine! I know I could just call you, but I thought it might be fun to write you a letter. I’m having a great time here with aunt Donna and uncle Keith—and with Franny and Mike, of course. We’ve been doing all kinds of fun outdoor stuff, like hiking, swimming, and canoeing. Ginger cookie comes along with us for almost everything. You should see how cute she looks in her dog life jacket.

This weekend we are going to make a trip to acadia National park and the nearby town of Bar Harbor. Aunt Donna and uncle Keith promised to take us on a Whale watching trip. I’m so excited! Sadly, ginger cookie isn’t allowed to come, so Mike is going to take her on a hike while the rest of us are on the Boat. Afterward we’ll all meet up for ice cream at some place called CJ’s big dipper. as you can see, we’ve got the important stuff all planned out!

I’ve got just one more thing to tell you—hopefully it will make you smile. Tonight we are making homemade pizza for dinner. (Grandpa John made the dough for the crust yesterday.) We had pizza last weekend too, and Franny was worried that I might not want it again so soon. Ha! Can you imagine? I guess my Cousin still has some things to learn about me! Anyway, when she asked me if I minded having pizza again, I turned to her and said, “there’s something you need to understand, Franny. I would happily eat pizza three times a day, seven days a Week.”

As you can probably tell, I am really happy here. I miss you though. Maybe you can send me a letter?

Love,
Taylor

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Scavenger Hunt: Capitalization

Directions: Complete the scavenger hunt below. You'll be hunting through the April 2018 issue of *Scope*.

1. Go to the article "The Children Who Escaped The Nazis." List all of the capitalized words in the sections "A Storm of Hatred" and "The Children."

Note:

- Do NOT list words that are capitalized only because they are the first word of a sentence.
- If a capitalized word appears more than once in the section, you only need to list it one time.
- If two or more words go together (for example, *Lore Sulzbacher*), list them together.

2. Based on the words you wrote in the box above, explain what type of words you think should always be capitalized. If there is anything you're unsure about in terms of capitalization, record your questions in the bottom section of this box.

Types of words that should always be capitalized:

My questions about capitalization:

3. In response to question 1, you should have written down *World War I*. If you missed it, add it to your list.

A. Now go to the section "Pushing Forward." Copy the first sentence of the second paragraph here:

B. Why is *war* capitalized in *World War I* but not in the sentence from "Pushing Forward"?

4. In response to question 1, you should have listed the words *November* and *March*. If you missed them, add them to your list.

A. Now go to "Stinky Pits: A History" on page 16. Copy the first sentence of the article here:

B. Circle the correct choice in each sentence:

Months **should/should not** be capitalized.

Seasons **should/should not** be capitalized.

5. A. Turn to "Did the World's Tallest Mountain Shrink?" on pages 28-29. In the article, does the author capitalize the name of the planet we live on?

B. Now read the following sentence:

Archaeologists used tiny brushes to remove the earth around the dinosaur bones.

When should the word *earth* be capitalized and when should it not be capitalized?

6. A. Turn to the interview on page 32. Read Bella's response to the second-to-last question. Why are the words *committee* and *board* capitalized in this paragraph?

B. Write a sentence using either the word *committee* or the word *board* such that it does not need to be capitalized.

If you still have questions about capitalization, discuss them with a partner or your teacher.