



Capitalization

There are 12 basic capitalization rules that you should follow. The following words or phrases should be capitalized:

- 1) The first word in a sentence.
The weather report predicted rain this afternoon.
- 2) The first-person singular pronoun I.
- 3) Proper Nouns (the names of specific people, places, organizations, and sometimes things). Do not capitalize general names.
Dianne and **George** are in the same math class.
Doctor Carvalis teaches other **doctors** at the hospital.
- 4) The names of the months, days of the week, and holidays. Seasons, however, are **not** capitalized.
 The first **Monday** in **June** is a month after **Easter** and a week before the beginning of **summer**.
- 5) Family relationships when they are used as proper names.
 I am proud of **Mom**; not many **mothers** are that brave.
- 6) The names of countries, nationalities, and languages.
 In the **United States**, there are many **Mexican** immigrants who speak fluent **Spanish**.
- 7) Periods and events, but not century numbers.
 The **Great Depression** was one of the lowest points of the **twenty-first century**.
- 8) East, West, South, and North when they are used as locations, but not when they are used as directions.
 In order to get to the **South** side of the city, you must travel **south** on Main St.
- 9) Brand Names.
 The grocery store has a sale on **Oreos**, **Cheerios**, **Kleenex**, and **Jell-O**.
- 10) The names of religions and religious terms and texts.
 We read a story from the **Bible** about **God** and **Moses**.
- 11) The major words in the titles of books, movies, songs, etc. receive capitals. Prepositions or articles are not capitalized **unless** they are the first word in the title.
 The hit song **Falling into a Dream** is the theme song for the blockbuster hit **A Walk in the Park**.
- 12) Capitalize the first word in a directly quoted sentence, unless it is blended into the sentence that introduces it.
 In Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale*, Autolycus says:
"Though I am not naturally honest, I am so sometimes by chance."
 Thomas Carruthers believes that a teacher is someone who **makes** himself progressively unnecessary."