

Capitalization Rules

Capitalize the pronoun **I**, regardless of its position in a sentence.

I am Mexican.

Today, I will talk about the importance of spelling.

Capitalize the first word of every sentence, question, quote, and line of poetry.

What is your name?

"Time is money."

Nature's first green is gold,

Her hardest hue to hold.

Her early leaf's a flower;

But only so an hour.

–Robert Frost

Capitalize the names of peoples, nations, races, ethnicities, religions, languages, and demonyms.

Mexican

Catholic

Colombia

Spanish

Hispanic

Argentinian

Capitalize the names of organizations, buildings, schools, and companies.

Central Intelligence Agency

Tecnológico de Monterrey

The Smithsonian

Apple

Note: The words **school**, **company**, **building**, **hospital**, **hotel**, etc. are only capitalized when they are part of the name.

Capitalize the days of the week and the months of the year.

Monday

Friday

May

December

Capitalize the names of holidays and religious holy days.

Labor Day

Thanksgiving

Good Friday

Yom Kippur

Capitalize the names of cities, districts, counties, towns, states, and countries.

Chicago

Hyde Park

Illinois

United States

Capitalize the names of streets, avenues, highways, boulevards, squares, and courts.

Alameda Street

Coldwater Canyon Avenue

Aviation Boulevard

San Francisco Road

Capitalize the names of parks, rivers, lakes, seas, oceans, and bays.

Mississippi River

Yellowstone Park

Red Sea

Pacific Ocean

Note: The words **park**, **river**, **lake**, **sea**, **ocean**, etc. are not capitalized unless they are part of the name.

Capitalize the first, middle, and last names of people.

George Washington
Abraham Lincoln

Martin Luther King
Medgar Evers

Capitalize the first letter of nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, and adverbs in the titles of books, plays, magazines, movies, stories, songs, and poems.

The Taming of the Shrew
The Star-Spangled Banner

Gone with the Wind
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire

Capitalize the names of historical events, periods, documents, and sacred books.

Middle Ages
Renaissance

Magna Carta
New Testament

Capitalize the nouns, pronouns, and adjectives that refer to a deity if you regard them as such.

God
Trust in Him.

Supreme Creator
the Almighty

Capitalize the words showing a person's rank or profession and the abbreviation of titles and degrees.

Professor Smith
President Roosevelt

Sergeant Dawes
Dr. Jones

Capitalize the abbreviations and acronyms.

UN (United Nations)
AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome)

WHO (World Health Organization)

Capitalize the names of planets, constellations, and stars.

Earth
Aquarius

Venus
Pegasus

Note: The words **earth**, **moon**, and **sun** are only capitalized when listed with other astronomical names.

Capitalize the geographic areas that refer to portions of a country or parts of the world.

the West
Westerner

the South
Southerner

Note: When using these words to show direction or points of a compass, do not capitalize them. For example, My house is two blocks west of Main Street.

To Learn More

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