

Rules for Capitalization

1. Capitalize the first word of every sentence.

Example: The building is burning down.

2. Capitalize the personal pronoun "I."

Example: He is the nicest person I have ever met.

3. Capitalize the names of specific places and things.

Example: I went to the Watsonville Post Office.

I attend Cabrillo College.

I like to go swimming in the Pajaro River.

Note: The words *post office*, *college*, and *river* are not capitalized unless they are mentioned along with their specific location.

4. Capitalize days of the week, months of the year, and holidays. Do not capitalize the names of seasons.

Example: The last Thursday of November is Thanksgiving Day. I love autumn, but I always look forward to spring.

5. Capitalize the names of languages, nationalities, races and religions.

Example: My friend who is Portuguese is in my Spanish class.

I love studying different religions; I have read the Bible, the Torah and the Quran.

There are still some places in America where Black people face discrimination.

6. Capitalize the first word and every important word in a title. Do not capitalize articles, prepositions, or short connecting words in the title.

Example: My favorite novel is *Gone with the Wind*.

7. Capitalize the first word of a direct quotation.

I told my mother, "Do not wait for me to come home tonight."

8. Capitalize historical events, periods and documents.

Example: The Emancipation Proclamation

9. Capitalize the words north, south, east, and west when they are used as places rather than as directions.

Example: I live on South Branciforte. It is in Santa Cruz, north of Watsonville.

10. Capitalize people's names, and titles when they are linked to names.

Example: President George W. Bush

11. Capitalize brand names.

Example: Tylenol

Practice: Underline the words in the following sentences that need to be capitalized.

1. the rain in Spain falls mainly on the plain.
2. I was hoping that lisa would come with me to the college basketball game in oakland.
3. my younger brother, pedro, is always annoying our mother by flushing his tonka toys down the toilet.
4. We are going to listen to a tape of martin luther king giving his famous speech called "I have a dream."
5. I am hoping my grandmother can visit us for thanksgiving.
6. We are spending christmas in mexico and we will make tamales together.
7. My sister wants to go to disneyland next summer.
8. I enjoyed reading the novel two old women.
9. I just saw a movie called like water for chocolate.
10. my aunt judy is hoping that I will visit her in colorado next january.
11. diane putnam directs the writing center at cabrillo college.
12. sarah and maria are my best friends.
13. I went to high school in watsonville.
14. My cousin went to aptos high.
15. I like to go shopping at capitola mall.
16. Abraham lincoln was a very important president who passed the emancipation proclamation, freeing the slaves, in 1863.
17. John f. kennedy, another popular American president, was assassinated in November 1963.
18. I was thinking of attending the university of delaware.
19. Many of my relatives live in the midwest.
20. I love the west coast because i like living next to the pacific ocean.