

# Capitalization Rules (Proper Nouns)

Proper Nouns	Examples
a. Specific people and things	Lisa, Capital One, Concordia College
b. Specific places and nouns preceding the location but <b>not directions and preceding articles unless they are part of the name</b>	Lake Erie, Times Square, Sahara Desert, but not north, south, the White House,
c. Days of the week, months and holidays but <b>not seasons and numbers of days of the month</b>	Monday, March, Thanksgiving not summer or third of July
d. Historical events	World War II, Vietnam War
e. Languages, Nationalities, Races but <b>not “white(s)” and “black(s)”</b>	Spanish, Algerian, Vietnamese
f. Religions and religious followers, and sacred books	Islam, Muslim, Bible, Jew
g. Educational institutions, degrees and academic course names but <b>not academic subjects unless they are names of languages.</b>	University of Notre Dame, Biology 101, French but not math, science or university
h. Planets	Earth, Saturn, Jupiter
i. Departments of government	Environmental Protection Agency
j. Names of family members when used in place of their actual names	Aunt Lisa and Uncle live together but not my aunt and my uncle live together

### EXERCISE 45-1 Capital Letters

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Edit the following sentences to correct errors in capitalization. If a sentence is correct, write "correct" after it. Example:

On our trip to the West we visited the <sup>G</sup>grand <sup>C</sup>canyon and the <sup>G</sup>great <sup>S</sup>salt <sup>D</sup>desert.

- a. District attorney Johnson was disgusted when the jurors turned in a verdict of not guilty after only one hour of deliberation.
  - b. Have you seen the Arena Stage production of *A Raisin in the Sun*?
  - c. Madeline is taking courses in geology, mathematics, french, and english.
  - d. My Grandfather and Grandmother emigrated from Lithuania in the mid-1960s.
  - e. I look forward every Spring to walking along the flower-lined paths in Boston's Public Garden.
1. Whenever my brother took us to the movies, he gave us three choices: A brainless beach party flick, a foreign fluff film, or a blood and lust adventure movie.
  2. The grunton is an unremarkable fish except for one curious habit: It comes ashore to spawn.
  3. In our family, aunt Sandra was notorious for her biting tongue.
  4. Historians have described Robert E. Lee as the aristocratic south personified.
  5. Because Eileen enjoys working with handicapped children, she is pursuing a degree in Special Education.