

UNIT 11 – WHAT WORDS DO WE CAPITALIZE

Capitalization – First Word in a Sentence

The first word in a sentence always begins with a capital letter.

EXAMPLE : He worked at a bakery.

Capitalize the first word in each sentence.

1. our class visited a horse show yesterday.
2. we enjoyed watching the beautiful horses.
3. each horse had its own rider.
4. while the music played, the riders led their horses in fancy drills.
5. the precision of the team was amazing.
6. each horse jumped gracefully over high hurdles.
7. they jumped through flaming hoops, too.
8. we had to laugh when the horses danced.
9. each horse kept perfect time to the music.
10. just before the intermission, a black stallion galloped across the field.
11. there were three men on its back.
12. the men were performing acrobatics.
13. that big steed never broke its stride.
14. every horse seemed to be very fond of its rider.
15. our teacher told us that both man and beast had full confidence in each other.

Capitalization – Names of Persons, Groups of People and Places

Names of persons and places begin with capital letters.

EXAMPLES : Elaine, Sally, and Dick live in Chicago.

Capitalize the names of persons, groups of people, places and any other word that should begin with a capital letter.

1. captain john parker led the soldiers at Lexington.
2. general gage commanded the british troops.
3. after the battles of lexington and concord, the new england colonies united.
4. the british sent general howe to boston with reinforcements.
5. in philadelphia, george washington was appointed to lead the troops.
6. the next battle between the british and americans was at bunker hill.
7. in 1776, general howe forced washington out of new york.
8. general washington, in a surprise night-crossing of the delaware river, captured the british at princeton, new jersey.
9. during the winter of 1777-78, the british occupied philadelphia.

10. general washington and his men spent a bitter winter at valley forge.

Capitalization – Names of Days, Months, Holidays, and Brand Names

Names of days, months, holidays and brand names begin with capital letters.

EXAMPLES : The Fourth of July is on Monday.

Capitalize the names of days, months, and any other word that should begin with a capital letter.

1. two presidents were born in february.
2. we have company over to dinner every sunday.
3. women earned the right to vote on september 26, 1919.
4. i have always used camay soap.
5. in our city we have a parade on memorial day.
6. dennis tricked everybody on april fool's day.
7. please purchase for me an economy size box of tide.
8. molly has been ill since saturday.
9. the Cotillion Club meets every monday in march.
10. election day falls on the first tuesday of november.
11. on september 9, 1850, california was admitted to the union.
12. our teacher is always glad for friday.
13. no other watch outsells a timex watch.
14. on monday morning I called miss forester.
15. mother and father's anniversary is on tuesday.
16. will thursday suit you better then wednesday?
17. jody will be fifteen on saturday, october 11.
18. valentine's day occurs in february.
19. we have a turkey for thanksgiving day.
20. the only item that he forgot to bring was the colgate toothpaste.

Capitalization – Direct Quotations

Capitalize each word that should begin with a capital letter.

EXAMPLE : Ron said, "May I go to the game?"

1. "look out, Jim," said Tom. "here they come!"
2. "there must be twenty of them," said Huck.
3. the boys jumped up, shouting, "let's go!"
4. tom ran toward the thick bushes, calling, "follow me."
5. huck panted, "do we have a chance, Tom?"
6. tom answered, "if the raft is still there, we have a chance."
7. huck added to himself, "that is, if we reach the raft."
8. suddenly tom whooped, "there's the raft, Huck; it's waiting for us."

9. from behind them came shouts, "hold up there, boys."
10. tom ordered, "jump on, Huck, while I cast off."
11. huck swung the loosened raft into the current and shouted, "grab a-hold, Tom."
12. tom and Huck, free again, called tauntingly, "hurry up, fellows, you're missing the boat."

Capitalization – Buildings, Races, Titles

Begin with capital letters all names of churches, schools, races, buildings, political parties, titles before proper nouns, and organizations.

Capitalize each word that should begin with a capital letter.

1. senator hummel is our town's best-known citizen.
2. he graduated from granville high school.
3. Then he went to harvard university law school.
4. his first law office was in the shall building.
5. much of his time was spent helping the american indians.
6. when malcom hummel was forty years old, he was elected to the united states senate.
7. he was a frequent guest at the white house.
8. serving as one of the leaders of the democratic party, senator hummel enacted many laws.
9. upon his retirement from public life, mr. hummel returned to granville.
10. he gave the town money to build the granville recreation center.
11. the rotary club, the chamber of commerce, and the credit bureau have offices in the building.
12. the hummel elementary school bears his name.
13. granville is a better town, thanks to mr. hummel.

Capitalization – Title of Publications

The first word and every important word in the title of a book, play, or magazine begins with capital letters. (Words such as prepositions, conjunctions, and the articles, a and an, are capitalization unless they stand first in the title.)

In each sentence place capital letters where they are needed.

1. one of the first truly american works of literature was the autobiography of benjamin franklin.
2. franklin also edited the popular poor richard's almanac.
3. another early american writer was tom paine, author of common sence.
4. hamilton, madison, and jay were the authors of a series of essays called the federalist.
5. william cullen bryant, the new england poet, gained fame with his poem "thanatopsis."
6. washington irving's sketch book made him a popular writer.
7. The leather-stocking tales by james fenimore cooper are stories about the frontiersman, natty bumpo.
8. herman melville's moby dick is one of the classic novels of american literature.
9. terror is the theme of the short stories of edger allen poe.

10. who wrote the lord of the flies?

Capitalization – I, Initial, and Poety

The word I is always capitalized. An initial in a name is always capitalized.

Underline each word that should begin with a capital letter.

1. jim and i made plans for labor day.
2. john f. kennedy wrote profiles in courage.
3. tony, bill, and i heard edger hoover speak in new York.
4. it was i who wrote the report on h. l. mencken.
5. alice j. white is our class president.

The first word in a line of poetry begins with a capital letter.

In the poem below, place capital letters where they are needed. Remember your other rules of capitalization.

the puzzled centipede

a centipede was happy quite
until a frog in fun
said, "pray, which leg comes after which?"
this raised her mind to such a pitch
she lay distracted in the ditch
considering how to run.

-Author Unknown-

UNIT 11 – WHAT WORDS DO WE CAPITALIZE (ANSWERS)

Capitalization – First Word in a Sentence

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|----------|-----------|---------|----------|-----------|---------|
| 1. Our | 2. We | 3. Each | 4. While | 5. The | 6. Each |
| 7. They | 8. We | 9. Each | 10. Just | 11. There | 12. The |
| 13. That | 14. Every | 15. Our | | | |

Capitalization – Names of Persons and Places

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|---|---|
| 1. Captain John Parker, Lexington | 2. General Gage, British |
| 3. After, Lexington, Concord, New England | 4. The British, General Howe, Boston |
| 5. In Philadelphia, George Washington | 6. The, British, Americans, Bunker Hill |
| 7. In, General Howe, Washington, New York | |
| 8. General Washington, Delaware River, British, Princeton, New Jersey | |
| 9. During, British, Philadelphia | 10. General Washington, Valley Forge |

Capitalization – Names of Days, Months, Holidays, and Brand Names

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Two, February | 2. We, Sunday | 3. Women, September | 4. I, Cammy |
| 5. In, Memorial Day | 6. Dennis, April Fool's Day | 7. Please, Tide | |
| 8. Molly, Saturday | 9. The, Monday, March | 10. Electron Day, Tuesday, November | |
| 11. On September, California | 12. Our, Friday | 13. No, Timex | |
| 14. On Monday | 15. Mother, Father's, Tuesday | 16. Will, Thursday, Wednesday | |
| 17. Jody, Saturday, October | 18. Valentine's Day, February | 19. We, Thanksgiving Day | |
| 20. The, Colgate | | | |

Capitalization – Direct Quotations

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|---------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|
| 1. Look, Here | 2. There | 3. The, Let's | 4. Tom, Follow |
| 5. Huck, Do | 6. Tom, If | 7. Huck, That | 8. Suddenly, There's |
| 9. From, Hold | 10. Tom, Jump | 11. Huck, Grab | 12. Tom, Hurry |

Capitalization – Buildings, Races, Titles, and Organizations

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| 1. Senator Hummel | 2. He, Granville High School |
| 3. Then, Harvard University Law School | 4. His, Shill Building |
| 5. Much, American Indians | 6. When Malcolm Hummel, United States Senate |
| 7. He, White House | 8. Serving, Democratic Party, Senator Hummel |
| 9. Upon, Mr. Hummel, Granville | 10. He, Granville Recreation Center |
| 11. The Rotary Club | 12. The Hummel Elementary School |
| 13. Granville, Mr. Hummel | |

Capitalization – Title of Publications

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|---|--|
| 1. One, American, <u>The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin</u> | |
| 2. Franklin, <u>Poor Richard's Almanac</u> | 3. Another, American, Tom Paine, <u>Common Sense</u> |
| 4. Hamilton, Madison, Jay, <u>The Federalists</u> | 5. William Cullen Bryant, New England, "Thanatopsis" |
| 6. Washington Irving's, <u>Sketch Book</u> | |

7. The Leather Stocking Tales, James Fenimore Cooper, Natty Bumppo
8. Herman Melville's, Moby Dick, American
9. Terror, Edger Allen Poe
10. Who, The Lord of the Flies

Capitalization – I, Initial Poetry

1. Jim, I, Labor Day
2. John F. Kennedy, Profiles in Courage
3. Tony, Bill, I, Edger Hoover, New York
4. It, I, H. L. Mencken
5. Alice J. White

The Puzzled Centipede

A centipede was happy quite
Until a frog in fun
Said, "Pray, which leg comes after which?"
This raised her mind to such a pitch
She lay distracted in the ditch
Considering how to run.