

Capitalizing Historical Events and Documents

Common nouns are nouns that name people, places, or things. They are not capitalized. **Proper nouns**, which name *particular* people, places, or things—such as historical periods, events, or documents—should always be capitalized.

historical event

Boston played a big part in the **American Revolutionary War**.

historical document

The Stamp Act Congress created the **Declaration of Rights and Grievances**.

Capitalizing Historical Events and Documents

Identify the historical event or document in each of the following sentences, and then tell how it should be capitalized.

- 1 Boston protested a tax on tea in 1773 with the boston tea party.
- 2 The tea act of 1773 raised the price of tea in the American Colonies.
- 3 The war started with the siege of boston.
- 4 This led to the battle of bunker hill.

Capitalizing Titles

The titles of books, stories, and essays are **proper nouns**. They should always be capitalized. Begin each important word with a capital letter.

title of a book

Mark Twain wrote ***The Adventures of Tom Sawyer***.

title of a short story

The wolf in **“Little Red Riding Hood”** is scary.

Capitalizing Titles

Identify the book, story, or essay in each of the following sentences, and then tell how it should be capitalized.

- 1 In “sleeping beauty,” the princess sleeps for 100 years.
- 2 When I read “the ugly duckling,” I felt sorry for the swan.
- 3 Louisa May Alcott wrote *little women* in 1868.
- 4 The witch in “hansel and gretel” had a tasty house.

Capitalizing Languages, People's Names, and Nationalities

The names of languages, people, races, and nationalities are **proper nouns**. They should always be capitalized.

person's name *language* *nationality*

Anthony speaks **English**, but he is **Italian**.

My mother is **African American**, and my father is **Asian**.

Capitalizing Languages, People's Names, and Nationalities

Identify the languages, nationalities, and people's names in each of the following sentences, and then tell how they should be capitalized.

- 1 Ms. lópez is our spanish teacher.
- 2 We are eating in a chinese restaurant, but the menu is written in english.
- 3 I am meeting haru at the japanese grocery store to buy sushi.
- 4 They are going to the french restaurant with kira.

Review Proper Nouns

The names of historical events, historical documents, books, stories, essays, languages, names, and nationalities are **proper nouns**. They should always be capitalized. Remember, common nouns are not capitalized.

book title
The book ***Number the Stars*** takes place during *historical event*
World War II.

person's name
Joseph speaks *languages*
Polish, Spanish, and Japanese, but he is *nationality*
American.

Review Proper Nouns

Identify the proper nouns in each sentence and share how to capitalize them.

- 1 We like to eat at stacy's house because her mom makes chinese food.
- 2 The declaration of independence was delivered to the british king.
- 3 Mr. king and Ms. jones are reading *charlotte's web* in their book club.
- 4 At the library, clara found a book of french folk tales translated into english.
- 5 The bears are upset with goldilocks in "goldilocks and the three bears."

Connect to Writing: Using Proper Nouns

When you use proper nouns in your writing, be sure to capitalize the appropriate words. This will help your readers know that you are using the names or titles of particular people, places, and things.

first and last name
Henry Tudor became king at the end of the *historical event*
War of the Roses.

person's name
Jin found a book of *nationality*
Korean poems translated to *language*
Spanish.