

What Are Proper Nouns?

Proper nouns are special names for specific things, not general names. They tell us the exact name of a person, place, animal, or thing. We always start proper nouns with an upper-case letter (capital letter), no matter where they are in a sentence!

Examples of Proper Nouns

1. People's Names:

Sally
Mr. Green
Dr. Smith

(These are special names for specific people. We don't call everyone by these names, just one person!)

2. Places' Names:

New York City (a specific city)
Mount Everest (a specific mountain)
Disneyland (a specific amusement park)

(These names tell us about special places that are one of a kind!)

3. Days of the Week and Months of the Year:

Monday
July

(Even though these come around over and over, their names are special, and they get an uppercase letter, too!)

4. Holidays:

Christmas
Halloween

5. Companies and Brands:

Nike
Apple Inc.

(These are the names of specific companies and brands, not just any company or brand.)

6. Books, Movies, and TV Shows:

"Make Way for Ducklings" (a specific book)
"Finding Nemo" (a specific movie)
"SpongeBob SquarePants" (a specific TV show)

7. Pets' Names:

Buddy (a dog's name)
Whiskers (a cat's name)

Tips to Remember Proper Nouns:

- If you can say "the one and only" before it, it's probably a proper noun.
- Proper nouns always start with an uppercase letter, even in the middle of a sentence.
- If it's a general name for something (like "city" or "dog"), it's not a proper noun.

Here's a simplified guide on which words to capitalize in titles.

Basic Rules for Capitalization in Titles:

- 1. Always Capitalize the First and Last Word:**
 - No matter what the word is, it gets a capital letter.
- 2. Capitalize the Important Words:**
 - **Nouns** (people, places, things): Example: Dog, Library
 - **Pronouns** (words that stand in for nouns): Example: He, She, It
 - **Verbs** (action words): Example: Run, Jump
 - **Adjectives** (words that describe nouns): Example: Beautiful, Quick
 - **Adverbs** (words that describe verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs): Example: Quickly, Very
 - **Subordinating conjunctions** (connects clauses or sentences): Example: Although, Because
- 3. Do Not Capitalize (Usually):**
 - **Short articles:** a, an, the (unless they are the first or last word)
 - **Short prepositions** (words that show location or time, among other relationships): in, on, at, to, for (unless they are the first or last word or part of a phrasal verb like "Look Up")
 - **Short conjunctions** (words that join words, phrases, or clauses): and, but, or, nor, for, so, yet (unless they are the first or last word)
- 4. Exceptions and Special Cases:**
 - **Long prepositions** (4 letters or more) should be capitalized: Example: With, Between, Among
 - **Phrasal verbs** should be capitalized: Example: "Look Up," "Turn Off"
 - Some style guides may follow other rules.

Examples:

- **Correct:** "The Quick Brown Fox Jumps Over the Lazy Dog"
 - First and last words are capitalized, along with all major words.
- **Correct:** "A Day in the Life"
 - "A" is capitalized because it's the first word, "in" and "the" are not capitalized because they're short prepositions and an article, but "Day" and "Life" are capitalized as they are important words.