



Capitalization

Which words are capitalized?	Examples
The first word of a sentence	When he tells a joke, he sometimes forgets the punch line.
The first word in a sentence that is a direct quote	Ben Franklin once said, "A fool and his money are soon parted."
The pronoun "I"	She wondered where I had been last summer.
Proper nouns (the names of specific people, places, organizations, and sometimes things)	Sam Spartan, Martin Guitar, Brooklyn Bridge, Supreme Court, Lake Erie
Family relationships when used as proper nouns	My video made Uncle Paul laugh, but my other uncles did not think it was funny. I texted Mother but not my mother-in-law.
The names of God, specific deities, religious figures, and holy books, but not the general use of the word "god"	God the Father, the Virgin Mary, the Bible, Moses, Shiva, Buddha, Zeus the Greek gods
Titles preceding names, but not titles that follow names	He was the bailiff for Judge Judy. Mary was friends with Paul Hansen, who was supposed to be the judge in her trial.
Directions that are names (North, South, East, and West) when used as sections of the country, but not as compass directions	The Southwest has the largest population growth. Bethlehem is only a few miles west of Easton.
The days of the week, the months of the year, holidays, and seasons used in a title, but not seasons in general	Monday, April, Halloween, the Fall 2012 term winter, spring, summer, fall
The names of countries, nationalities, and languages	Spain, American, French, English
The major words in the titles of books, articles, and songs, but not prepositions or the articles "the," "a," or "an" if they are not the first word of the title	One of her favorite books is <i>Gone with the Wind</i> . He prefers <i>The Lost Tribes in the Amazon</i> .
Members of national, political, racial, social, civic, and athletic groups	Chinese, Democrats , African-Americans, Tango Club, Rotarians, Boston Red Sox
Trademarks	Coke, Honda, AT&T, Apple, Kleenex
Words and abbreviations of specific names, but not names that once were specific names but which are now general types	Freudian, ABC, the UN, MADD french fries, italics, pasteurize