

Writing Mechanics & Grammar: Capitalization

Level: Middle School

Some capitalization rules are easy: start each sentence with a capital letter and always start someone's name with a capital letter, too. People's names are called proper nouns, and they along with other kinds of proper nouns are always capitalized. These include names of cities, states, and places, and names of people's positions if those words are attached to a person's name (e.g., "President Washington," but not "the president"). Names of months and days of the week always take a capital letter, but seasons do not. Also, the first word of a book, article, or movie title is always capitalized, as well as all main words in the rest of the title and all words with four or more letters.

Circle the properly capitalized words in each of these sentences.

1. (summer / Summer) is fun because we go to camp for three weeks in (july / July).
2. The doctor gives me a checkup every (august / August) before (school / School) starts.
3. I got a great book from the (library / Library) called "(the / The) Dark Moon."
4. My cousin (bob / Bob) got a new (baseball / Baseball) glove for his birthday.
5. (we / We) cheered for (mayor / Mayor) Taylor at the municipal parade.
6. She would love to visit (london / London), England, in the (spring / Spring).
7. This is the coldest (monday / Monday) we've had this (winter / Winter).
8. We got our teeth checked by Dr. (smith / Smith), and we had no cavities.
9. The (mayor / Mayor) officially opened the (fourth / Fourth) of July picnic.
10. Our (mom / Mom) used to take us to the San Diego (zoo / Zoo) every year.
11. Our (family / Family) always gets together for (thanksgiving / Thanksgiving).
12. The Sahara (desert / Desert) might be the hottest (desert / Desert) of all.

Writing Mechanics & Grammar: Capitalization Answer Sheet

1. Summer, July
2. August, school
3. library, The
4. Bob, baseball
5. We, Mayor
6. London, spring
7. Monday, winter
8. Smith
9. mayor, Fourth
10. mom, Zoo
11. family, Thanksgiving
12. Desert, desert