

Printable Capitalization Rules

Category	Capitalize?	Rule/Note	Example
First word of a sentence	Yes	Marks the beginning of a new idea.	Today we start early.
Pronoun 'I'	Yes	Always capital for clarity.	I finished the task.
Proper nouns	Yes	Names of specific people, places, things.	Maria Lopez; Cairo; Pixar
General directions	No	Directional movement only.	They walked east.
Named regions	Yes	Acts as a cultural or geographic name.	She moved to the Midwest.
Proper adjectives	Yes	Adjectives formed from proper nouns.	Italian cuisine
Family titles	Yes/No	Capital when used as a name.	I asked Mom; my mother works.
Celestial bodies	Yes/No	Earth, sun, moon lowercase unless with planets.	Mars; the sun
Newspapers & journals	Yes	Capitalize major words.	The New York Times
Days, months, holidays	Yes	Specific points in time.	Monday; July; Ramadan
Seasons	No	General time periods.	fall semester
Seasons in titles	Yes	Season appears in official name.	Summer Term 2025
Historical periods & events	Yes	Named eras or events.	Cold War; Industrial Revolution

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Nationalities & languages	Yes	Recognized identities.	Hispanic; Korean
Political & civic groups	Yes	Formal group names.	Labour Party; Rotary Club
Course names	Yes/No	General subjects lowercase, specific courses capitalized.	history; Introduction to Biology
Brand names	Yes	Function as proper nouns.	Lego; iPhone
Religious terms	Yes/No	Capitalize names of deities & sacred texts.	God; the Quran
Professional titles	Yes/No	Capital before names, lowercase after.	Professor Adams; Adams, a professor
Titles of works	Yes	Capitalize major words.	The Catcher in the Rye
After a colon	Yes/No	Capital only if a full sentence follows.	He knew: The test was tomorrow.
After a semicolon	No	Word stays lowercase unless proper noun.	The lights dimmed; everyone watched.
Direct quotes	Yes	Capitalize first word of quoted sentence.	She said, "The exam begins now."