

Capitalization E

Buildings, Monuments, Memorials, and Awards

Capitalize the names of buildings and other structures, monuments, memorials, and awards.

EXAMPLES Empire State Building Lincoln Memorial
Caldecott Medal Academy Award

NOTE Except when used as the first word in a sentence, the word *the* is not usually capitalized, even if it is part of a name. In *the Newbery Medal*, for example, *Newbery Medal* is capitalized while the word *the* is not.

EXERCISE A Circle the letter or letters that should be capitalized in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. For her discovery of radium, Marie Curie won a Nobel prize. [The *p* in *prize* should be capitalized because it is the name of an award.]

1. When Clara toured San Francisco, she took pictures of the golden gate bridge. [Does the sentence contain the name of a structure, and is that name capitalized?]
2. Someday, the pulitzer Prize is going to go to my next-door neighbor.
3. He really deserves an oscar for his performance after school.
4. Our teacher said that he wanted to stand at the base of the empire state building and look straight upward.
5. Alex and Justin counted all of the steps leading to the top of the statue of liberty.

Religious Names

Capitalize the names of religions and their followers, holy days and celebrations, sacred writings, and specific deities.

EXAMPLES Catholicism [religion] Puritans [religious followers]
Passover [holy days] Ashura [religious celebration]
Torah [sacred writings] Allah [deity]

EXERCISE B Circle the letter that should be capitalized in each of the following sentences.

Example 1. That college class will study the prayers found in the sacred writings called the vedas. [The *v* in *vedas* should be capitalized because *Vedas* is the name of a sacred writing.]

6. The hero of the story was lost at sea because he angered the god poseidon. [Is there the name of a specific deity that needs to be capitalized in the sentence?]
7. What is the name of the first book of the bible?

8. Because his family observes the holy days of ramadan, he and his brother are fasting from dawn to sunset.
9. As the famous buddhist began to explain his spiritual beliefs, the audience grew quiet.
10. Christians everywhere will celebrate easter very soon.

Planets, Stars, and Constellations

- 10f.** Capitalize the names of specific planets, stars, constellations, and other heavenly bodies.

EXAMPLES Mercury [planet] Rigel [star]
Ursa Minor [constellation] the Milky Way [galaxy]

NOTE The words *earth*, *sun*, and *moon* are generally not capitalized unless they are used as specific bodies in the solar system.

EXAMPLES The planet **E**arth is the third planet. [*E*arth is capitalized because it refers to part of the solar system.]
We all live on the **e**arth. [In this sentence, *e*arth is not capitalized.]

EXERCISE C Fill in the blanks with proper nouns that correspond to each of the common nouns that are underlined in the sentences below. Be sure to capitalize correctly the proper nouns that you write. Hint: You can make up any names if you don't know of one.

Example 1. The planet **Mars** was once thought to be inhabited. [*Mars* is a proper noun and should be capitalized because it is the name of a specific planet.]

11. On a clear, light-free night, the galaxy _____ is visible. [Have you filled in the blank with the name of a galaxy and capitalized it correctly?]
12. Mike thought he saw a UFO, but it was really just the planet _____.
13. My favorite constellation is _____ because it is so easy to spot.
14. That comet, called _____, is an immense pool of interstellar gas.
15. The small-looking star _____ guided explorers as they traveled.