

## Proper nouns

### Introduction

1) A noun is a word used to identify any of a class of people, places, or things (common noun), or to name a particular one of these (proper noun).

*You can buy **coffee** at **Starbucks**.*

2) A proper noun is a noun that refers to a unique entity, such as (names, names of cities, planets, corporations etc.) as distinguished from a common noun, which usually refers to a class of entities.

***London** is the capital of **Great Britain**.*

Note that proper nouns are *unique* names. Thus, they are capitalized.

***Olivia** wants to travel around **Europe** next year.*

We should also capitalize:

a) festivals.

***Christmas** and **Thanksgiving** are my two favourite holidays!*

b) people's titles.

*Everything depends on **President** Trump and his decisions.*

c) the names of books, films, plays, paintings. We use capital letters for the nouns, adjectives, and verbs in the titles.

*I've just finished reading '**The Old Man and the Sea**'.*

Sometimes we use a person's name to refer to something they have created.

*We were listening to **Mozart** the other day.*

*I'm reading **an Iris Murdoch** now.*

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When you use a word denoting a family member (e.g. mom, dad, uncle), capitalize it only if the word is being used exactly as you would use a name, i.e. if you were addressing the person directly. If the word is not being used as a name, it is not capitalized.

*Please ask **Dad** if he can buy wine on his way home.*

*Is your **dad** coming over for dinner?*

Whenever you see a capitalized word, question whether or not it is a proper noun. Make sure that the capitalized word is, in fact, a noun as there are also proper adjectives.

***Asia** is one of the continents of the world. (proper noun)*

*I don't really like **Asian** food. (proper adjective)*

### Short Story Dialogue

– ***Emma**, what did you get for **Christmas**?*

– *My mom and dad got me a **Polaroid**! I was beyond happy!*

– *Wow! That's such a cool gift!*

– *Yeah, I know! And what did you get?*

– *My parents bought me a trip to **New York** for 5 days. I've never been to **the East***

***Coast** so I'm looking forward to it. I'll go there in summer though.*

– *That's amazing! Don't forget to take photos!*

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## Independent Practice - Proper nouns

### 1) Decide whether the underlined words should be capitalized.

- a. Honestly, I don't really like coca cola.
- b. My aunt kelly is a wonderful person!
- c. See the list of 2018 oscar Nominations including best picture, best actors and actresses, and more.
- d. I'm sure you'll like 'pride and prejudice'!
- e. Maybe we should get some fast food for dinner?
- f. Pam studied engineering at college.
- g. Texas is the second largest state in the united states by both area and population.
- h. When I saw a monet for the first time, I was blown away!
- i. Kate doesn't like winter months that much.
- j. Under the US constitution, each state is given a number of electoral votes in rough proportion to its population.

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## Independent Practice: Answers - Proper nouns

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- j. Under the US constitution, each state is given a number of electoral votes in rough proportion to its population.