# English capitalization rules

**1 Capitalize the first word of a sentence.**

This one's easy. Always capitalize the first word of a sentence.

**2 Capitalize names and other proper nouns.**

You should always capitalize people's names.

Names are proper nouns. The names of cities, countries, companies, religions, and political parties are also proper nouns, so you should capitalize them, too.

**3 Don't capitalize after a colon (Usually).**

In most cases, you don't need to capitalize after a colon.

There are a couple of common exceptions. One is when the word following the colon is a proper noun. The other exception is when the words following the colon form one or more complete sentences.

**4 Capitalize the first word of a quote (Sometimes).**

Capitalize the first word of a quote when the quote is a complete sentence.

**5 Capitalize days, months, and holidays, but not seasons.**

The names of days, months, and holidays are proper nouns, so you should capitalize them.

The <u>names of seasons</u>, however, are not proper nouns, so there's no need to capitalize them.

**6 Capitalize cities, countries, nationalities, and languages.**

The names of cities, countries, nationalities, and languages are proper nouns, so you should capitalize them.

**7 Capitalize time periods and events (Sometimes).**

Specific periods, eras, and historical events that have proper names should be capitalized.

However, centuries—and the numbers before them—are not capitalized.