

Common and Proper Nouns

The names of particular persons, places, and things are **proper nouns**. Capitalize the first word and each important word of a proper noun.

An appositive is a word or phrase put next to a noun to describe it. Appositives may contain proper nouns: Della, my German shepherd, is smart.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company was run by Dr. Thomas C. Durant.

All other nouns, including collective nouns such as *class* and *herd*, are **common nouns**. They are not capitalized.

The railroad companies of the 1800s used the labor crews of many men.

Capitalize the first word and all important words in a title.

The Transcontinental Railroad: Tracks Across America

Capitalize days of the week and months of the year.

The crews worked feverishly that Monday in April.

Capitalize the names of organizations.

The National Railroad Museum called my father.

Capitalize the first letter of an abbreviated proper noun. Abbreviations often occur in addresses, titles and initials in names, and names of days and months. Most abbreviations end with a period.

Lin wrote: "Send my Sept. wages to 203 Shore St., Los Angeles, CA 90048."

Directions If the group of words is correctly capitalized, write *Correct* on the line. If the group of words is not capitalized correctly, rewrite it using correct capitalization.

1. mississippi River _____
2. ten mile day _____
3. Monday, Oct. 2 _____
4. mr. charles crocker _____
5. 4291 lincoln St., St. louis, Mo. _____
6. president Lincoln _____
7. the foreman of the crew _____
8. Central Pacific railroad _____
9. san Francisco, california _____

Directions Decide whether each list of nouns is common or proper. Add another example to each list. Write *P* if the list shows proper nouns. Write *C* if the list shows common nouns.

10. Nebraska, Colorado, Utah, _____ → _____
11. spikes, wood ties, sledgehammers, _____ → _____
12. Dr. Elliot, Mrs. Daley, _____ → _____