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.

Alexi Bishop lives in Seattle, Washington, a city of the Northwest.

All other nouns are **common nouns.** They are not capitalized.

Our family has always wanted to live in the mountains or on the coast.

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

The Wind in the Willows

Capitalize days of the week and months of the year.

Class meets on Mondays in May.

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.

The envelope went to Ms. M. R. Ryan, 1410 Montgomery St., Raleigh, NC 27607.

It was postmarked Wed., Sept. 27.

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. *A Wrinkle In Time* _____

3. Monday, Sept. 26 _____

4. mrs. Juanita campos _____

5. 907 main St., Flagstaff, Az. _____

6. captain John Smith _____

7. the president of the company _____

8. Girl Scouts of America _____

9. president Washington _____

10. Sioux city, iowa _____

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.

11. New York, Texas, Mississippi, _____ → _____

12. trees, bushes, flowers, _____ → _____

13. Canada, France, India, _____ → _____

14. ocean, river, pond, _____ → _____

15. Mr. Smith, Ms. Jones, _____ → _____

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