

Common and Proper Nouns

Learn the difference between everyday words and specific names.

Quick Reference

Type	Rule	Examples
Common noun	General name — NOT capitalised	city, dog, month, river
Proper noun	Specific name — ALWAYS capitalised	Paris, Rex, January, Thames

Common: My sister lives in a city. Proper: My sister lives in Madrid.

Common: I love that author. Proper: I love Shakespeare.

Exercise 1 — Sort the nouns

Write each word in the correct column.

Word bank: dog · Amazon · teacher · Tuesday · country · Brazil · newspaper · Google

Common nouns	Proper nouns

Exercise 2 — Fix the capitalisation

Some sentences have capitalisation errors. Rewrite them correctly.

1. *My favourite city is london.*

Corrected: _____

2. *She works every monday and tuesday.*

Corrected: _____

3. *The amazon river is the largest in south america.*

Corrected: _____

4. *He reads the new york times every morning.*

Corrected: _____

5. *our teacher, mrs chen, is from china.*

Corrected: _____

6. *i love christmas and new year.*

Corrected: _____

Exercise 3 — Match common to proper noun

Draw a line to connect each common noun to its matching proper noun.

Common noun	Proper noun
river	Monday
country	Nile
day	Shakespeare
author	France
company	Apple

Exercise 4 — Fill in the gap

Replace the underlined common noun with an appropriate proper noun.

1. I went to a country in Europe last summer. → I went to _____ last summer.

Answer: _____

2. She speaks a language fluently. → She speaks _____ fluently.

Answer: _____

3. My favourite singer released a new album. → _____ released a new album.

Answer: _____

4. We live on a planet. → We live on _____.

Answer: _____

TIP Proper nouns are ALWAYS capitalised, wherever they appear in a sentence. Common nouns are only capitalised at the start of a sentence.