1. Focus

Explain Capital Letters for Proper Nouns

Say: Nouns can be either common nouns or proper nouns. Common nouns name a person, place, or thing, such as the words girl, city, and day. But common nouns don’t name specific people, places, or things. We use proper nouns to name a particular person, place, or thing. Proper nouns always begin with a capital letter.

Display the following chart on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proper Nouns—Person</th>
<th>Proper Nouns—Place</th>
<th>Proper Nouns—Thing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maria</td>
<td>Atlanta</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob</td>
<td>Pine Street</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example Capital Letters for Proper Nouns Chart

Say: Maria and Jacob both start with capital letters because they are the names of specific people. Names of cities, such as Atlanta, and names of streets, such as Pine Street, are names of specific places. They start with capital letters. Monday is a proper noun because it names a particular day of the week. It starts with a capital M. April names a specific month and is a proper noun, so it begins with a capital A.

Model Using Capital Letters for Proper Nouns

Say: I’m going to read a paragraph and look for proper nouns.

Display the modeling text (with errors) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students.

Tia knew that it was going to be a bad day. First she overslept. So she had to rush. She raced down the stairs. Jamal, Jalissa, Brooke, and Luke were waiting for her.

Modeling Text

Say: I see several words that look like people’s names. But it’s hard to pick them out because they’re not capitalized. The first word in the paragraph is Tia. I know that Tia is the name of a girl, so it’s a proper noun. And it’s also the first word in the sentence. Tia needs to start with a capital letter. (Capitalize the t in Tia.) In the last sentence, I see the words jamal, jalissa, brooke, and luke. These are all names of people. I need to start each of these proper nouns with a capital letter. (Capitalize the j in jamal and jalissa, the b in brooke, and the
In Luke.) Now the sentences are easier to understand. It’s clear whom each sentence is talking about.

2. Rehearse

Practice Using Capital Letters for Proper Nouns

Display the practice text (with errors) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

| 1. “This has been a bad day,” Tia told the other Oak Street kids. |
| 2. “I’m leading my class in the Pledge of Allegiance.” |
| 3. “Those are Mr. Morgan’s flowers!” Jamal said. |

Practice Text

Ask students to work with a partner. Invite pairs to read the sentences and decide which words need capital letters.

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Ideas to Correct Capitalization

Bring students together. Ask volunteers to share which words they think should be capitalized. Discuss their responses. Ask the following questions:

• Where did you place capital letters?
• How did you know which nouns are proper nouns?
• What did this lesson teach you to do?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that we need to capitalize proper nouns. We often use proper nouns when we write realistic fiction stories. Proper nouns can be used to name a specific person, a specific place, or a specific thing in a story.

If you would like to give students additional practice recognizing and using capital letters for proper nouns, have them complete BLM 10.

4. Share

Bring students together. Review and provide corrective feedback based on students’ answers to BLM 10. Ask students to share what they learned about using capital letters for proper nouns.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Use proper nouns that ELs are familiar with, such as the students’ names, the name of your town or city, or the name of your school. Write the nouns without capital letters. Then cross out the incorrect lack of capitalization and add the capital letters.

Intermediate and Advanced

Provide simple sentences to provide extra practice for ELs. For example:

- maria sat down.
- She saw Ms. parsons.
- Do you live on park avenue?