Edit for Capitalization

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
• Learn to edit fiction for capitalization, specifically focusing on proper nouns.
• Edit practice sentences and share their edits with the class.
• Discuss how they can apply this skill to their own independent writing.

Preparation

Materials Needed
• Chart paper and markers
• Realistic Fiction Checklist
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation
If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the modeling and practice texts (with errors) onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Editing for Capitalization

Say: After we have written our drafts and revised them, the last thing we need to do before we publish our writing is to edit it for mistakes. One thing we can look for is correct capitalization. Why do you think this is important? (Allow responses.) We know we need to use a capital letter at the beginning of each sentence. We need to make sure we don’t have capital letters where we should have lowercase letters. We also need to make sure we capitalize proper nouns.

Model Editing for Capitalization

Display the modeling text (with errors) on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources. Ask students to listen as you read the sentences aloud and look for mistakes in capitalization.

Modeling Text

2. “We can still make it to school on time,” Jamal said.
3. It was time for Ms. Parsons’s class.

Read sentence 1. Say: Jamal, Brooke, and Luke are all proper names. The first letter of each name needs to be capitalized. I can cross out the lowercase letter, use a caret, and insert a capital letter for the first letter of each name. Make the changes to the modeling text.

Read sentence 2. Say: In this sentence, I see that the word still is capitalized. It doesn’t need to be. I will cross out the capital letter and use a caret to insert a lowercase s. Make the changes to the modeling text.

Read sentence 3. Say: Wait! I see that Ms. is not capitalized. Ms. is part of a person’s name, so it needs to be capitalized. I’ll cross out the lowercase m, use a caret, and insert a capital M. Make the changes to the modeling text.
2. Rehearse

Practice Editing for Capitalization

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

1. I helped Brooke with her book report.

Practice Text

Ask students to work with a partner to write the practice text sentences and edit them for proper capitalization. Student pairs should be prepared to show their edited sentences and explain their corrections.

Share Practice Edits

Invite partners to share their capitalization edits with the class. Ask them to identify which words they decided should be capitalized and how they knew to make these changes. Make the changes to the sentences on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources to model how you use proofreading symbols during the editing process. Discuss and support students’ use of proofreading symbols.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned how to edit for capitalization to improve our writing. Good writers know to edit for capitalization to help finalize their writing. They don’t want errors in capitalization to distract their readers. Remember to check your use of capital letters when you edit your fiction writing.

Review the Realistic Fiction Checklist (page 60) and encourage students who are at the editing stage of their independent writing to focus on editing for capitalization and other conventions of good writing. During conferences, use the prompts on your conferring flip chart to support students’ independent or peer editing.

4. Share

Bring the class together. Invite volunteers to discuss errors they found and were able to correct in their realistic fiction stories.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning
Support students’ use of capitalization by writing example sentences they could use to introduce themselves. For example, “My name is Jesse.” Write the sentence on chart paper and underline the capital letters. Say: This is a capital letter. You use a capital letter at the beginning of a person’s name.

Intermediate and Advanced
Pair ELs with fluent English speakers during the partner activity. For extra practice, invite students to construct a sentence using at least two proper nouns. Let them write the sentence and practice deciding which words to capitalize.

All Levels
If you have ELs whose first language is Spanish, share these English/Spanish cognates: correct/corregir; edit/editar.