

Proper Nouns

Common nouns

When writing we must
be sure to capitalize
Proper Nouns and use
lower case for
common nouns!

**We cannot always use
lower case letters! We
must capitalize Proper
nouns and the first
word of a sentence!**

**So, what is the difference between a common
and proper noun?**

Common nouns

Name a person, place or thing.

They DO NOT begin with a capital letter.

city

month

holiday

teacher

sports team

Day

book

— — —

Proper nouns

Name a SPECIFIC person,
place, or thing.

They ALWAYS begin with a
capital letter because
they are special names!

Los Angeles

January

Christmas

Mrs. Hernandez

Dodgers, Raiders

Friday

Number the Stars

— — —

Let's try to identify the Proper noun in the following sentence.

i feel like having a starbucks
coffee.

— — —

What should be capitalized in the sentence above?

If you said...

I

Starbucks

You're RIGHT!!!

Let's go to the costco to buy
some pizza.

What should be capitalized in the sentence above?

If you said...

— — —

Costco

You are RIGHT!!!

Now, tell me what words should be lowercase!

— — —

Pizza

Remember, common nouns are not specific!
They are general words!

Boy

Disneyland

In and Out Burger

team

If you said...

— — —

pizza

boy

team



You are RIGHT!!!

pizza, boy, team

are not specific!

They aren't special
names so they do not
need to be capital.

Proper nouns and Common nouns

Remember, when writing a sentence or paragraph please be sure you are only using **upper case** letters for **Proper nouns**!

Only use **lower case letters** on **Common nouns**.
These are general nouns that don't give a specific name.