

Name _____

Capitalization Word Sort Answer Key

Capitalize:

- Monday (day of the week)
- Thanksgiving (holiday)
- Empire State Building (landmark)
- January (month)
- Mr. Brown (title + name)
- Florida (state)
- Christmas (holiday)
- George Washington (person's name)
- February (month)
- Mars (planet)

Don't Capitalize:

- cat (common noun)
- river (common noun)
- apple (common noun unless Apple the company)
- chair (common noun)
- pizza (common noun)
- teacher (common noun unless used as a title, e.g., Teacher Smith)
- book (common noun)
- library (common noun)
- mountain (common noun, unless part of a proper name like Mount Everest)
- sun (not capitalized unless referring scientifically as "the Sun" in astronomy)

Teacher Notes

- This activity encourages students to **apply rules of capitalization** instead of just correcting sentences.
- Word choices intentionally mix **proper nouns** (people, places, holidays, titles) with **common nouns** to challenge sorting.
- Discuss with students why some words can shift categories depending on context (e.g., *sun* vs. *the Sun*, *apple* vs. *Apple*).
- Extension: Have students add **two more words** to each category after sorting.