

Capitalization: A Capital Thing

Capitalization can be at once something automatically known but also something which is easily second-guessed.

The following types of words are usually capitalized: names for the deity, religions, religious followers, sacred books; words of family relationship used as names; particular places; nationalities and their languages, races, tribes; departments, degrees, particular courses, organizations, political parties, historical movements, periods)

In general, titles or subtitles have the first word, the last word, and all major words (including both parts of hyphenated words) capitalized.

Capitalizations When Writing Titles

Here are the words that are capitalized when writing a title:

- Nouns (e.g., cat as in *The Cat in the Hat*)
- Pronouns (e.g. her, *The Writer on Her Work*; that as in *The Light That Failed*)
- Verbs (e.g. rises as in *The Sun Also Rises*)
- Adjectives (e.g., old as in *The Old Man and the Sea*)
- Adverbs (e.g., quickly as in *How to Learn Anything Quickly*)
- Subordinating conjunctions (e.g. after, although, as if, as soon as, because, before, if, that, unless, until, when, where, while, as in *Because of Winn-Dixie*)

The following parts of speech are not capitalized when they occur in the middle of the title:

- Articles (a, an, the)
- Prepositions (e.g., against, between, in, of, to, as in *The Catcher in the Rye*)
- Coordinating conjunctions (and, but, for, nor, or, so, yet, as in *Like Water for Chocolate*)
- The to in infinitives (as in *A Time to Kill*)

For more information:

<http://dictionary.reference.com/help/faq/language/c/capitalization.html>