

# Common Nouns and Proper Nouns

A **noun** names a person, place, or thing.

A **common noun** names a person, place, or thing that is **not specific**.

A **proper noun** names a **specific** person, place, or thing. Proper nouns always start with **capital letters**. Look at the examples below.

## **Common Nouns (not specific)**

*month*

*city*

*person*

*president*

*mayor*

## **Proper Nouns (specific)**

*March, September*

*Chicago, Tulsa*

*Mrs. Green, Jay, Uncle Ken, Dr. Wilson*

*President George Washington*

*Mayor Kerry Ali*

Remember to use capital letters for the types of proper nouns shown below. Note that there is usually **no** capital letter on *the* before a proper noun.

	Examples of Proper Nouns
Names of <b>countries, states, and cities</b>	<i>Australia, Wyoming, St. Louis</i>
Names of <b>people</b> , including any initials, and names given to <b>pets</b>	<i>Richard E. Wilson, Fluffy</i>
Names of <b>days of the week, months, holidays</b> , and other <b>special days</b>	<i>Saturday, December, Thanksgiving, Groundhog Day</i>
Names of <b>buildings, bridges, and monuments</b>	<i>Empire State Building, The Golden Gate Bridge, Washington Monument</i>
Names of <b>languages</b> and <b>nationalities</b>	<i>French, Spanish, Greek</i>
Names of <b>geographical places</b> and <b>features</b>	<i>the Rocky Mountains, Yellowstone National Park, Lake Erie, the Mississippi River</i>
Names of <b>objects in space</b> , such as <b>planets, galaxies, and comets</b>	<i>Mars, the Milky Way, Halley's Comet</i>
Names of <b>historical events</b> and <b>periods</b>	<i>World War II, the Middle Ages</i>
Names of <b>awards</b> and <b>prizes</b>	<i>Employee of the Month, the Nobel Prize</i>
Names of <b>organizations</b> and <b>companies</b>	<i>the United Nations, the World Health Organization, Free the Children, NoFrills, Metro</i>
Job <b>titles*</b>	<i>Queen Elizabeth, President Ghali, Police Chief Patel, Governor Carter, Mayor Chan Lee, Dr. Smith, Mrs. Katya Petrov</i>

• Note that a job title gets a capital letter only when it comes right before a person's name.