

# Punctuation

## Booster 8: Using capital and lowercase letters for proper and common nouns

### Key learning

You need to know when to use a capital or lowercase letter for proper and common nouns.

<b>Proper nouns start with a capital letter. They include: languages, titles of books or films, the names of streets, buildings and places as well as people.</b>			<b>Common nouns do not have a capital letter unless they start a sentence or form part of a heading or title. Examples: flowers, seasons, points of the compass, academic subjects (except languages).</b>		
Atlantic Ocean	English	Westminster Abbey	north	east	mathematics
Pirates of the Caribbean	Italy	Scotland	autumn	lilies	geography

### Worked example:

There are two types of errors in these rows of text:

- error 1 – a proper noun has not been capitalised.
- error 2 – a common noun has been capitalised.

For each row of text, count how many of each type of error you can find.

	Error 1	Error 2
In any season, the capital's royal parks and Gardens are lovely to visit.		
Kensington palace Gardens are free to visit and are particularly		
beautiful in Spring with spectacular displays of Wallflowers and		
Pansies. To enter the palace, the former home of Diana		
princess of wales, you will need to purchase a ticket.		

### Answers:

	Error 1	Error 2
In any season, the capital's royal parks and Gardens are lovely to visit.	0	1
Kensington palace Gardens are free to visit and are particularly	1	0
beautiful in Spring with spectacular displays of Wallflowers and	0	2
Pansies. To enter the palace, the former home of Diana	0	1
princess of wales, you will need to purchase a ticket.	2	0

In any season, the capital's royal parks and **gardens** (common noun, not a specific garden) have much to offer.

Kensington **Palace** Gardens (proper noun – part of the name of a specific place) are free to visit and are particularly beautiful in **spring** (seasons of the year are common nouns) with spectacular displays of **wallflowers** and **pansies** (names of general varieties of flowers and animals are common nouns). To enter the palace, the former home of Diana **Princess of Wales**, (Princess and Wales are both part of a specific name or title and are proper nouns. In addition, Wales is also a proper noun because it is the name of a country) you will need to purchase a ticket.

## Your turn:

Write at least **six** sentences (two paragraphs) describing a favourite place you have visited with friends or family. Use proper nouns to add detail and a focus to your writing.

You must include:

- the specific name of the place
- its geographical location and what direction you travelled to go there
- the names of some of the people who were with you
- the time of year you visited.