

# LANGUAGE ARTS *capitalization & plurals*

## CAPITALIZATION

THE FOLLOWING CHART PROVIDES A QUICK OVERVIEW OF CAPITALIZATION RULES.

All proper nouns → Shannon O'Connor, Orlando, Bill of Rights  
All proper adjectives → Kraft cheese, Bounty paper towels, Phillips screwdriver  
The first word in every sentence → Her dress is stunning.  
Races, languages, nationalities → Asian, French, African-American  
Nouns/Pronouns that refer to a supreme being → God, Yahweh  
Days of the week → Sunday, Monday, Tuesday  
Formal epithets → Ivan the Terrible  
Bodies of water → Amazon River, Lake Huron, Wea Creek  
Cities, towns → Houston, Lafayette, Dearborn  
Counties → Tippecanoe, Cork  
Continents → Africa, North America  
Landforms → Mojave Desert, the Appalachians  
Holidays and holy days → Memorial Day, Christmas, Hanukkah  
Months → January, February  
Official documents → Emancipation Proclamation  
Official titles → President Obama, Mayor Bradley  
Periods and events in history → Middle Ages, Renaissance  
Planets, heavenly bodies → Mars, Pluto, Milky Way  
Public areas → Yellowstone National Park  
Sections of a country or continent → the Northwest, the Middle East  
Special events → Battle of Lexington  
Streets, roads, highways → Rodeo Drive, Route 66, Interstate 65  
Trade names → Honda Accord, Kellogg's Corn Flakes

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School Datebooks

## PLURALS

THE FOLLOWING CHART PROVIDES A QUICK OVERVIEW OF PLURALIZATION RULES.

The plurals of most nouns are formed by adding *s* to the singular.  
→ Examples: pie = pies | dog = dogs | machine = machines

The plural forms of nouns ending in *sh*, *ch*, *x*, *s* and *z* are made by adding *es* to the singular.  
→ Examples: dish = dishes | fox = foxes | buzz = buzzes | church = churches

The plurals of common nouns that end in *y* preceded by a consonant are formed by changing the *y* to *i* and adding *es*.  
→ Examples: fly = flies | copy = copies

The plurals of words that end in *y* preceded by a vowel are formed by adding only *s*.  
→ Examples: holiday = holidays | monkey = monkeys

The plurals of words ending in *o* preceded by a vowel are formed by adding *s*.  
→ Examples: studio = studios | rodeo = rodeos

The plurals of words ending in *o* preceded by a consonant are formed by adding *s* or *es*.  
→ Examples: hero = heroes | banjo = banjos | tomato = tomatoes | piano = pianos

The plurals of nouns ending in *f* or *fe* are formed in one of two ways:  
{1} If the *f* sound is still heard in the plural form, simply add *s*.  
→ Examples: roof = roofs | chief = chiefs  
{2} If the final sound in the plural is a *ve* sound, change the *f* to *ve* and add *s*.  
→ Examples: wife = wives | knife = knives

Foreign words and some English words form the plural by taking on an irregular spelling.  
→ Examples: crisis = crises | criterion = criteria | goose = geese | ox = oxen

The plurals of symbols, letters and figures are formed by adding an *s*.  
→ Examples: 5 = 5s

The plural of nouns that end in *ful* are formed by adding *s* at the end of the word.  
→ Examples: handful = handfuls | pailful = pailfuls | tankful = tankfuls