Below are six important rules for using capitalization in your writing.

Rule \#1: Capitalize the first word of every sentence.
Examples:

- There are two cups on the table.
- Do you have a pen?

Rule \#3: Capitalize a person's title when it comes before his or her name.
Examples:

- I saw Dr. Jones last week.
- She saw Mr. and Mrs. Smith yesterday.

Rule \#5: Capitalize the first word in a quoted sentence.
Examples:

- Our teacher said, "Good morning."
- He asked, "What time is it?"

Rule \#2: Capitalize proper nouns (names of people, places and things).
Examples:

- My best friend is Sarah.
- I think Spain is located in Europe.

Rule \#4: Capitalize any person's title when it is used to directly talk/write to that person.
Examples:

- Thank you, Teacher, for helping me.

Will the needle hurt, Doctor?

Rule \#6: Capitalize compass directions in reference to specific regions.

## Examples:

- Europe was divided into East and West.
- The Civil War was fought between the North and the South.
- Find the $\mathbf{2 0}$ capitalization mistakes below. (The first one is done for you.)
many of john's friends think he has a boring daily routine, but john likes it. he always gets up at six o'clock every morning and says, "good morning" to his wife and kids, and after breakfast he arrives at work around seven-thirty. he works at a small store called supersave supermarket. it's located in new york. after work, he says, "good-bye" to his boss, mr. smith, and then goes home. on weekends, he likes to play with his son, thomas, and his daughter, barbara. maybe john's routine really is a little boring, but he enjoys it!


## Grammar Focus Capitalization

Level Lower Intermediate

## ANSWER KEY

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## Grades as percentages

$20 / 20=100 \%$
$19 / 20=95$
$18 / 20=90$
$17 / 20=85$
$16 / 20=80$
$15 / 20=75$
$14 / 20=70$
$13 / 20=65$
$12 / 20=60$
$11 / 20=55$
$10 / 20=50$
$9 / 20=45$
$8 / 20=40$
$7 / 20=35$
$6 / 20=30$
$5 / 20=25$
$4 / 20=20$
$3 / 20=15$
$2 / 20=10$
$1 / 20=5$
$0 / 20=0 \%$

