

# A Magical Capital Adventure

You know that the first word of a sentence is always capitalized. Here are other rules to remember when you write.

Capitalize

- the names of people, magical creatures, and pets.  
**My friend, Hermione Granger, has an owl and a cat, Crookshanks.**
- titles of respect such as Professor, Mrs., Mr., Miss, and Ms.  
**Professor Snape and Mrs. Weasley met Harry at the station last week.**
- the names of days, months, and holidays, but not the seasons.  
**Harry got his letter on the Tuesday before Halloween last fall.**
- titles of relatives when they are used as a name.  
**I can't own a dragon because Mum and my uncle are allergic to fire.**
- names of places, buildings, and monuments.  
**I am taking care of Hedwig while Harry and his friends are on a trip to London. They are going to visit Diagon Alley and King's Cross Station.**
- direction words when they name a region.  
**We live in the Southwest. Harry and his friends flew north yesterday morning.**

Find and correct 20 errors in capitalization in the paragraph below. Some words should be capitalized and some should not. Mark three lines under each letter that needs to be capitalized (≡). Draw a line through each letter that should not be capitalized.

The best time to visit hogwarts is in the early Autumn. the leaves turn brilliant colors in october, and the air turns crisp. The floating candles glowed above the great Hall when we first arrived. We reached the castle on a monday morning after riding the Hogwarts express to school. After settling into gryffindor tower, we explored the grounds together. I could have spent all week there, although the forbidden forest, the quidditch pitch, and the black lake were really amazing. I was hoping to meet professor mcgonagall, but she was busy in london. We did see a Professor from the ministry, though.

Write a complete sentence to answer each of the following questions. Use capital letters where necessary.

1. If you were sorted into a Hogwarts house, which house would you want to be in, and why?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What month and holiday do witches and wizards celebrate with pumpkins and costumes?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. If you could have any magical pet or creature, what would you choose and what would you name it?

\_\_\_\_\_

## And the Champion Is . . .

As a writer, you need to know how to use commas to let readers know where to pause when reading a sentence.

Use a comma

- after each item in a series of three or more, except after the last item.  
**Harry packed his wand, cloak, and broomstick.**
- to set off the name of the person you are addressing directly.  
**Will you brew this potion with me, Ron?**
- after introductory words like *yes, no, and well*.  
**Well, I think the tournament rules are unfair.**
- to set off an appositive from the rest of the sentence.  
**The Marauder's Map, a magical piece of parchment, shows everyone at Hogwarts.**
- before a conjunction that joins two sentences.  
**Harry entered the tournament, but he never expected to be chosen.**
- after a dependent clause that begins a sentence.  
**When the Goblet of Fire chose his name, Harry was shocked.**
- to set off words that interrupt the basic idea of a sentence.  
**Hermione, therefore, researched the spell in the library.**
- to separate geographical names and dates.  
**Harry was born in Godric's Hollow, England. The first task began Tuesday, November 24, 1994.**

Write a sentence to answer each question. Include commas where they are needed.

1. On what day and date does the Hogwarts school year begin?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. If you could visit any magical location in the wizarding world, where would it be?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How would you complete the following sentence?

Whenever I cast a spell, \_\_\_\_\_

4. Imagine you have been asked to introduce Albus Dumbledore at the start-of-term feast. How would you begin your introduction using direct address?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. How would you use *and* in a sentence that tells which two spells you would want to learn first at Hogwarts?

\_\_\_\_\_

As you read a chapter of your favorite book or magazine, look for five examples of commas in sentences and write them on a piece of parchment (or paper). Then identify the comma rule that was used.