The rules of capitalization can be confusing.

All words referring to a country or its people begin with capital letters.

*American history* (NOT *american history*)

*Indian philosophy* (NOT *indian philosophy*)

*French literature* (NOT *french literature*)

More examples are given below: *British, French, Italian, Scottish, English, Chinese, Japanese* etc.

**Capitalize ‘I’**.

Capitalize the first letter of the first word in a new sentence or question.

Capitalize proper nouns. Examples are: *Peter, Alice, John, the Nile* etc.

**The Nile** is the longest river in the world. (NOT *The nile is the longest river in the world.*)

Do not capitalize common nouns. Examples are: *boy, girl, student* etc.

He is a clever *boy*. (NOT *He is a clever Boy.*)

Capitalize the names of particular institutions or organizations.

She teaches at a *university*. (NOT *She teaches at a University.*)

She teaches at the *University of Texas*. (NOT *She teaches at the university of Texas.*) (The name of a particular university has to be capitalized.)

**Exercise**

Correct the following sentences.

1. Do you speak chinese?
2. The japanese are known for their hospitality.
3. He bought a new Shirt for his birthday.
4. The amazon is the largest river in the world.
5. Let’s visit James this afternoon.

**Answers**

1. Do you speak **Chinese**?

2. The **Japanese** are known for their hospitality.

3. He bought a new **shirt** for his birthday.

4. The **Amazon** is the largest river in the world.

5. Let’s visit **James** this afternoon.