Nouns and Capitalization:

A *noun* is a word for a person, place, or thing. For example, the sentence *The man arrived in London and ate a stew* contains three nouns: *man*, *London*, and *stew*.

Two kinds of nouns exist; *proper nouns*, which refer to specific places, institutions, or people, and *common nouns*, which refer to the type of function an institution represents, a certain kind of person, or an object.

The first letter of a proper noun is *capitalized*, whereas the first letter of a common noun remains *lowercase*. The following examples demonstrate how to recognize and capitalize a proper noun.

- Capitalize names of people such as *Josef, Paula, Maria, and Thomas*.
- Don’t capitalize the nouns referring to *what kind* of people they are such as *boy*, *girl, woman*, and *man*.
- Capitalize specific names of institutions, like the *U.S. Congress, British Parliament*, or *Bank of America*.
- Don’t capitalize the nouns referring to *what kind* of institution they are like a *congress*, a *parliament*, or a *bank*.
- Capitalize trademarked brand names such as *Coca-Cola®, Nike®, Apple®, and Skittles®*.
- Don’t capitalize the nouns referring to *what kind* of products these are like a *soda pop*, a pair of *tennis shoes*, a *computer*, or *candy*.

Underline the words in the following sentence that need to be capitalized:

1) *The girl named janice told me about her wonderful trip to puerto rico, where she had driven a mazda along the beach and gone diving.*

Make sure to capitalize the first word at the beginning of each sentence, even if it is a common noun, verb, pronoun, or any other part of speech that is not usually capitalized:

- *How are you doing today?*
- *Once upon a time, a princess lived in a mighty castle.*
- *We will hang out another time.*

Capitalize the person pronoun “I,” no matter where it is in the sentence:

- *I am going to the park.*
- *That was the first time she and I went out on a date.*
- *How did you know I was sick?*

Circle the words in the following sentence that need to be capitalized:

2) *around two o’clock therese and jean realized that they had missed their delta flight to tokyo, where i was waiting to pick them up once their plane had landed.*
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1) Answers: Janice (personal name), Puerto Rico (specific place), and Mazda (brand name for a specific type of convertible).
2) Answers: Around (beginning of sentence), Therese and Jean (personal names), Delta (brand name for specific airplane company), Tokyo (specific place), and I (personal pronoun “I”).