



WHAT THEY'LL LEARN

- An introduction to proper nouns
- Understanding the range of proper nouns: 'names' given to specific people, places, days of the week and months of the year
- Developing an understanding of the difference between nouns and proper nouns
- Learning that proper nouns begin with capital letters

Teach proper nouns and capital letters



Have fun helping children to remember when to use the right punctuation for names, says **Beki Wilson**

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The National Curriculum suggests that children begin to learn the concept of proper nouns in KS1 English and literacy, and by Y2 it is expected that children will write names of anything, including friends, days of the week, countries, clubs, companies, parks, streets and historical events, with correct capitals. But making this learning fun and engaging can be a challenge. In this lesson, children will experience a cross-curricula approach to recognising proper nouns, when they should be using capital letters and remembering to do it!



“Give each child one to two minutes to ‘present’ or talk about their ‘proper noun’ person”

c) The queen lives in buckingham place with her husband prince philip and their corgi dogs called monty and willow.
 d) Hurricanes occur every year. They are given names in alphabetical order. In 2019 the names will be: andrea, barry, chantal, dorian, erin, fernand, gabrielle, Humberto.
 Ask the children to write down the displayed sentences with the correct capital letters for the proper nouns. When they have finished this, ask one student at a time to come out and be the teacher, correcting the proper nouns in each sentence.
 Ask the children at their desks to mark their work themselves and correct any mistakes.

EXTENDING THE LESSON

- Give the children a blank piece of paper, ideally with a picture frame template. Ask them to choose a partner and sit opposite from them, writing their friend’s name (using a capital letter).
- Ask them to draw their partner’s portrait.
- They are not allowed to look down at the paper at any time until they have finished drawing.
- Model for the students if necessary. The results are hilarious class portraits that have an abstract Picasso look to them.

Beki Wilson has over 20 years’ experience in the classroom. She currently works as a full-time teacher trainer and literacy consultant with Jolly Learning, supporting schools, teachers and parents all over Europe.

facts about them. For example, “This is my daughter Daniella. Daniella is fun, nice and clever. She is pretty and she has brown hair and brown eyes.”

‘wanted’ posters as a class display or booklet. This should be accessible and on display to pupils to help remind them of the different types of proper nouns you have covered.

central display board in the class, for example:
 a) mary went to visit her auntie elizabeth at the hospital called the london general hospital.
 b) peter threw the ball to jack. jack then threw it back too hard and smashed the window of his dad’s ford escort car.

3 | CORRECTING
 Write some sentences on the



MAIN LESSON

1 | PEOPLE

Ask the children to think about their favourite person. Model the activity by writing a person’s name at the bottom of the board, telling them that this is your favourite person. Then ask the children to do the same while reminding them that the name should begin with a capital letter. Now sketch a head-and-shoulders portrait of the person, keeping the drawing as simple as possible. Ask the children to do the same in their books or sheet of paper. Once the children have completed their drawings, describe the person you have drawn, introducing their name and providing a few

2 | PRESENT

Ask the children to find themselves a partner. Give each child one to two minutes to ‘present’ or talk about their ‘proper noun’ person using their picture as a visual prompt. Repeating the information a few times helps the children to practise and refine their presentations, supporting reading fluency and confidence in their delivery.

Once the children have talked about their person a few times, ask if any of the pupils would like to do a short presentation to the whole class, or you can ask questions such as, “Who is Natalia’s favourite person?” and, “Why did Natalia draw him or her?” The portraits can then be made into ‘Wild West’ style

START HERE

Ask the children to write their names on a small piece of paper, collect these up and put them into a small bag or box. Pick a child to pull one name out of the bag and write it up on the board. Repeat this activity four or five times. Can the children spot anything special about all of the names? Hopefully, this will lead to a discussion about how names are proper nouns and that they start with a capital letter. Repeat the game a few more times. This time they will hopefully remember to use a capital letter.



USEFUL QUESTIONS

- What other names do we know?
- Are there any other ways to use capital letters?
- Are days of the week proper nouns and why?
- If you could invent a new name for yourself, what would it be?