



Capitalization Quiz by Laura King, MA, ELS

Directions: In the following sentences indicate which words should be capitalized based on the information outlined in chapter 10 of the *AMA Manual of Style*. For further explanation of the correct answers, refer to the cited section of the online or print version of the *AMA Manual of Style*.

1. After extensive testing, the physician determined that the infant had chediak-higashi syndrome.

ANSWER:

After extensive testing, the physician determined that the infant had Chediak-Higashi syndrome.

Editor's Note: With eponyms, capitalize the proper name but not the common nouns that follow; hence, *Chediak-Higashi* but not *syndrome* should be capitalized in this example (§[10.3.4](#), Eponyms and Words Derived From Proper Nouns, p 376 in print).

2. The patient began to demonstrate parkinsonian symptoms in his late 30s.

ANSWER:

The patient began to demonstrate parkinsonian symptoms in his late 30s.

Editor's Note: This example is correct as is. Most common words derived from proper nouns are not capitalized. Consult the current edition of a dictionary or medical dictionary (§[10.3.4](#), Eponyms and Words Derived From Proper Nouns, p 376 in print).

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3. The surgeon used a teflon-coated electromagnetic needle during the operation.

ANSWER:

The surgeon used a Teflon-coated electromagnetic needle during the operation.

Editor's Note: Capitalize trademarks and proprietary names of drugs and brand names of manufactured products and equipment (§[10.3.5](#), Proprietary Names, p 376 in print).

4. The americans with disabilities act ensures that disabled persons are not discriminated against when seeking employment.

ANSWER:

The Americans with Disabilities Act ensures that disabled persons are not discriminated against when seeking employment.

Editor's Note: Capitalize the official names of awards and specific parts of laws and bills, but follow the official name (as in the lowercase *w* in Americans with Disabilities Act) (§[10.3.3](#), Events, Awards, and Legislation, p 376 in print).

5. The chair of the department of dermatology decided to resign his position by the end of the year.

ANSWER:

The chair of the Department of Dermatology decided to resign his position by the end of the year.

Editor's Note: Capitalize the official titles of organizations, businesses, conferences, congresses, institutions, and governmental agencies. Words such as *chair*, *president*, *senator*, *congressperson*, *editor in chief*, and so on are not capitalized unless they appear before a person's name (eg, President Barack Obama) (§[10.3.9](#), Official Names, pp 377-378 in print).



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6. The following are schedule II drugs: morphine, cocaine, oxycodone (percodan), methylphenidate (ritalin), and methadone (dolophine).

ANSWER:

The following are Schedule II drugs: morphine, cocaine, oxycodone (Percodan), methylphenidate (Ritalin), and methadone (Dolophine).

Editor’s Note: Usually, specific designators are not capitalized; however, the following are examples of exceptions to this rule: Step I diet, Schedule II drug, and Axis I (§[10.4](#), Designators, pp 378-379 in print). Proprietary (brand) names of drugs use initial capitals, with a few exceptions (eg, pHisoHex) (§[15.4.3](#), Proprietary Names, pp 568-569 in print).

7. In 1985, Bruce Beutler identified and purified Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF).

ANSWER:

In 1985, Bruce Beutler identified and purified tumor necrosis factor (TNF).

Editor’s Note: Do not capitalize the words from which an acronym or initialism is derived unless the words that form the acronym or initialism are proper names (§[10.6](#), Acronyms and Initialisms, p 379 in print).

8. The authors stated that “certain groups of patients were omitted from the study because of incomplete test results.”

ANSWER:

The authors stated that “certain groups of patients were omitted from the study because of incomplete test results.”

Editor’s Note: This example is correct as is. If a quotation is run into a sentence, a lowercase letter on the first word may be preferable (§[10.1](#), First Word of Sentences, Statements, Quotations, Titles, Subtitles, and Table Headings, p 371 in print).



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9. Persons with mini-mental state examination scores of 24 or less were excluded from the trial.

ANSWER:

Persons with Mini-Mental State Examination scores of 24 or less were excluded from the trial.

Editor’s Note: The exact and complete titles of tests and subscales of tests should be capitalized. Always verify exact names of any tests with the author or with reference sources (§[10.3.8](#), Tests, p 377 in print). In this example, the correct presentation of Mini-Mental State Examination is given in the list of Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms (§[14.11](#), Clinical, Technical, and Other Common Terms, pp 501-519 in print).

10. Massimiliano Zampini and Charles Spence were winners of an Ig Nobel prize in 2008 for electronically modifying the sound of a potato chip being chewed to make the person chewing the chip believe it to be crisper and fresher than it actually was.

ANSWER:

Massimiliano Zampini and Charles Spence were winners of an Ig Nobel Prize in 2008 for electronically modifying the sound of a potato chip being chewed to make the person chewing the chip believe it to be crisper and fresher than it actually was.

Editor’s Note: Capitalize the names of historical and special events, historical periods, and awards (§[10.3.3](#), Events, Awards, and Legislation, p 376 in print).

11. A search of the HIV literature revealed a recent study entitled “short-term effect of erythropoietin on T-Cell mitogenic proliferation in chronic renal failure patients.”

ANSWER:

A search of the HIV literature revealed a recent study entitled “Short-term Effect of Erythropoietin on T-Cell Mitogenic Proliferation in Chronic Renal Failure Patients.”

Editor’s Note: In titles, if both parts of a hyphenated compound together constitute a single word (consult the current edition of a dictionary or medical dictionary), do not capitalize the second part of the compound; hence, *Short-term* in this example. However, in the case of a temporary compound, in which each part of the hyphenated term carries equal weight, capitalize both words; hence, *T-Cell* in this example (§[10.2.2](#), Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).



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12. Patients in the San Francisco Bay Area were included in the study.

ANSWER:

Patients in the San Francisco Bay Area were included in the study.

Editor's Note: Capitalize names of cities, towns, counties, states, countries, continents, islands, airports, peninsulas, bodies of water, mountains and mountain ranges, streets, parks, forests, canyons, dams, and regions (§10.3.1, Geographic Names, pp 374-375 in print).

13. The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is located where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio River.

ANSWER:

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center is located where the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers meet to form the Ohio River.

Editor's Note: Capitalize the official titles of organizations, businesses, conferences, congresses, institutions, and governmental agencies (§10.3.9, Official Names, pp 377-378 in print). If a common noun is capitalized in the singular (ie, *Ohio River* in this example), it is generally not capitalized in the plural (ie, *Allegheny and Monongahela rivers* in this example) (§10.3.1, Geographic Names, pp 374-375 in print).

14. The patient sample was mainly from southern Missouri.

ANSWER:

The patient sample was mainly from southern Missouri.

Editor's Note: Compass directions are not capitalized unless they are generally accepted terms for regions (§10.3.1, Geographic Names, pp 374-375 in print).

15. Traditional Eastern medicine incorporates the use of 69 different angiosperms.

ANSWER:

Traditional Eastern medicine incorporates the use of 69 different angiosperms.

Editor's Note: Compass directions are not capitalized unless they are generally accepted terms for regions (§10.3.1, Geographic Names, pp 374-375 in print). In this example, *Eastern* indicates a specific region and should therefore be capitalized.

