



Capitalization of Titles and Subtitles Quiz

by Laura King, MA, ELS

CORRECT ANSWERS

Directions: Please indicate which words in the following titles should be capitalized according to the guidelines outlined in [section 10.2](#) of the [AMA Manual of Style](#).

1. Response of Adolescent but Not Elderly Patients to Nortriptyline

Editor's Note: Capitalize major words in titles and subtitles. Do not capitalize a coordinating conjunction, an article, or a preposition of 3 or fewer letters, except when it is the first or last word in a title or subtitle ([§10.2](#), Titles and Headings, p 372 in print). Because *but* is a conjunction, it should not be capitalized. *Not* is an adverb and therefore considered a major word, so it should be capitalized.

2. All-Cause Mortality of Cardiovascular Disease

Editor's Note: In hyphenated compounds, the second part of the compound should be capitalized unless either part is a hyphenated prefix or suffix or both parts together constitute a single word. In this example, the word *all-cause* cannot be found as a single entry in *Webster's* or *Dorland's*, so both *All* and *Cause* should be capitalized ([§10.2.2](#), Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).

3. Tolcapone in Patients With Parkinson Disease: A Randomized, Double-blind, Placebo-Controlled Trial

Editor's Note: The *A* should be capitalized because it is the first word of the subtitle (§10.2, Titles and Headings, p 372 in print). *Double-blind* is a hyphenated compound considered a single word (ie, it can be found as a single entry in *Webster's*); therefore, *blind* should not be capitalized. *Placebo* and *Controlled* are 2 separate terms operating together as a temporary compound; therefore, both parts of the hyphenated compound should be capitalized (§10.2.2, Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).

4. Five-Year Follow-up of Patients With Alzheimer Disease

Editor's Note: *Follow-up* as a noun is a hyphenated compound considered a single word (ie, it can be found as a single entry in *Webster's*); therefore, only the *F* in *Follow-up* is capitalized (§10.2.2, Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print). Note that numbers are written out at the beginning of titles.

5. Following Up Middle-aged Patients After Myocardial Infarction

Editor's Note: With a phrasal verb, such as *follow up*, capitalize both parts (§10.2.1, Titles of Medical Articles, pp 372-373 in print). Because *middle-aged* is a hyphenated compound considered a single word (ie, it can be found as a single entry in *Webster's*), the *a* in *aged* is lowercase (§10.2.2, Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).

6. Unusual Third Nerve Synkinesis Due to Midbrain Injury

Editor's Note: In this example, *Due to* is an adjectival phrase with *Due* operating as the adjective; therefore, *Due* is considered a major word and requires capitalization (§10.2, Titles and Headings, p 372 in print).

7. Short-term Study of β -Adrenergic Blocking Agents

Editor's Note: *Short-term* is a hyphenated compound considered a single word (ie, it can be found as a single entry in *Webster's*), so only the *S* in *Short-term* is capitalized (§10.2.2, Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print). The *A* in *Adrenergic* should also be capitalized because the first letter of a word that follows a lowercase (but not capital) Greek letter should be capitalized (§10.2.2, Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).

8. Physicians in Health Maintenance Organizations: Where Will We Be in the Millennium?

Editor's Note: Although only 2 letters, both *We* and *Be* are capitalized because, as a pronoun and verb, respectively, they are considered major words ([§10.2.1](#), Titles of Medical Articles, pp 372-373 in print).

9. What Is the Appropriate Treatment for Graves Disease?

Editor's Note: Capitalize 2-letter verbs (eg, *go*, *do*, *am*, *is*, and *be*) ([§10.2.1](#), Titles of Medical Articles, pp 372-373 in print).

10. Dorzolamide vs Timolol: Results of a Case-Control Study

Editor's Note: In the case of a temporary compound in which each part of the hyphenated term carries equal weight, capitalize both words. In this example, *Case* and *Control* are of equal weight (ie, one does not modify the other), so both words should be capitalized ([§10.2.2](#), Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).

11. Multiple Antibiotic-Resistant *Klebsiella* and *Escherichia coli* in Nursing Homes

Editor's Note: Genus and species should be treated normally in mixed capital and lowercase headings (with the genus capitalized and the species lowercase and both words italicized) ([§10.2.2](#), Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).

12. Self-controlled Prospective Study of Topical Corticosteroids

Editor's Note: *Self* operates as a prefix in the compound *self-controlled*, and compound words with the prefix *self-* are considered one word; therefore, *controlled* should be lowercase ([§10.2.2](#), Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).

13. Heart Retransplantation in Elderly Persons: Should Surgeons Continue to Do It?

Editor's Note: Capitalize 2-letter verbs (eg, *go*, *do*, *am*, *is*, and *be*). Also, capitalize *It* because it is a pronoun and therefore a major word. Do not capitalize *to* in infinitives ([§10.2.1](#), Titles of Medical Articles, pp 372-373 in print).

LEARNING RESOURCES

14. T-Cell Receptor–CD3 Complex

Editor’s Note: In the case of a temporary compound in which each part of the hyphenated term carries equal weight, capitalize both words. In this example, *T* and *Cell* are of equal weight (ie, one does not modify the other), so both words should be capitalized ([§10.2.2](#), Hyphenated Compounds, pp 373-374 in print).

15. Experiences of Women Older Than 30 Years With In Vitro Fertilization

Editor’s Note: In compound terms from languages other than English, capitalize all parts of the expression (eg, In Vitro, In Situ, En Bloc) ([§10.2.1](#), Titles of Medical Articles, pp 372-373 in print). **Note:** In Vitro should not be italicized. Italics are not used if words or phrases are considered to have become part of the English language, eg, café au lait, in vivo, in vitro, en bloc ([§22.5.4](#), Italics, pp 925-926 in print).

