Language – Capital Letters

LeT's TalK ABout caPltaL LetterS. Well, that looks a bit odd! I've mixed up capital letters and small letters. That's because I haven't kept to the rules. Do you know what the rules are for using capitals? Can you write out that sentence correctly for me?

Great. Now let's have a look at the most important rules for using capital letters.

Rule 1. We should always start a sentence with a capital letter.

- The bird sang sweetly.
- Where did you park the car?

Rule 2. We should always use a capital for the first person singular pronoun.

- I am going to play with my friends.
- My mom and I went to the movies.

Rule 3. We should always use a capital letter for **proper nouns**. **Proper nouns** are the names of **specific** people, places, things or events, like:

- The names of people: My new brother's name is **P**eter.
- The names of countries: Janet visited her aunt in Germany.
- The names of languages or nationalities: I am learning to speak French.
- The names of planets: The closest planet to Earth is Mars.
- The names of special events or holidays: We're having turkey for Thanksgiving.
- The names of the days or months: Holidays start on the first Friday in July.
- The important words in a title: My dad likes reading the New York Times.
- People's titles: My mother says Uncle Bill's students call him Professor Jones.

Language – Capital Letters Questions

A. Change to capital letters.

Can you write this nonsense poem again, using capitals in all the correct places?

the little hippopotamus, whose name was hilda hippodrome, saw me as i packed my case to take along with me to rome. can i come too, young hilda asked, that's where my aunt matilda stays. i'd like to spend christmas with her, or any other holidays.

'my suitcase is quite full, i said, 'there really is no room for you. i've packed my shirts, and socks and pants, and my best italian shoe, i've packed 'what to see in italy' written by professor sprat, so the only place i could carry you is underneath my hat.

B. Do you know the rules?

Now can you answer the following questions?

Why do you write:

- 1. 'The boy ran' and not 'the boy ran'?
- 2. 'My friend and I played' and not 'My friend and i played'?
- 3. 'My sister's name is Mary' and not 'My sister's name is mary'?
- 4. 'The Chronicles of Narnia is my favorite book' and not 'The chronicles of narnia is my favourite book'?
- 5. 'I can see Mars through my telescope' and not 'I can see mars through my telescope'?

Language – Capital Letters Answers

Activity A.

The little hippopotamus, whose name was Hilda Hippodrome, saw me as I packed my case to take along with me to Rome. 'Can I come too?' young Hilda asked, that's where my Aunt Matilda stays. I'd like to spend Christmas with her, or any other holidays.

'My suitcase is quite full', I said, 'there really is no room for you. I've packed my shirts, and socks and pants, and my best Italian shoe, I've packed 'What to See in Italy' written by Professor Sprat, so the only place I could carry you is underneath my hat'.

Activity B.

- 1. 'The' is the first word of a sentence.
- 2. 'I' is the first person singular pronoun.
- 3. 'Mary' is a proper noun it is a person's name.
- 4. 'The Chronicles of Narnia' is the name of a book.
- 5. 'Mars' is a proper noun it is the name of a planet.