

Which Words Are to Be Capitalised?

Jean-Michel Hufflen

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Words to be capitalised in *titles* put within French bibliographies.

In fact, I was ignoring it for a long time. Besides, it is very complicated, so many people do not follow it.

Letter cases

Bicameral scripting:

- ▶ **uppercase** (*capitals*);
- ▶ **lowercase** (*minuscules*).

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Bicameral scripting:

- ▶ **uppercase** (*capitals*);
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Examples fo bicameral alphabets: *Latin, Greek, Cyrillic, Armenian, Coptic.*

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- ▶ **uppercase** (*capitals*);
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Examples fo bicameral alphabets: *Latin*, *Greek*, *Cyrillic*, *Armenian*, *Coptic*.

Counter-example: the *Gregorian* alphabet.

Case vs variant

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Some writing systems ignore this distinction: e.g., Far-East writing systems.

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Some writing systems ignore this distinction: e.g., Far-East writing systems.

Some include *variants*, e.g., the Gregorian or Arabic alphabets.

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Some include *variants*, e.g., the Gregorian or Arabic alphabets.

Using uppercase letters for a word is ruled by its *meaning*.

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Some writing systems ignore this distinction: e.g., Far-East writing systems.

Some include *variants*, e.g., the Gregorian or Arabic alphabets.

Using uppercase letters for a word is ruled by its *meaning*.

Using variants depends on positions \leftarrow Arabic alphabet.

Upper-case vs capitalisation

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Capitalisation \iff the first letter is uppercase, others are lowercase.

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Capitalisation \Leftarrow the first letter is uppercase, others are lowercase.

\Leftarrow Title case letters in Unicode.

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Capitalisation \iff the first letter is uppercase, others are lowercase.

\iff Title case letters in Unicode.

Example: Ljubljana, lj \implies LJ, Lj.

Proper nouns

Person names, town names, etc.

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Proper nouns

Person names, town names, etc.

Month names, capitalised in English, not in French and Polish.

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Les Français sont attachés aux usages français.

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German \Leftarrow more systematic—including recent rules—any noun is capitalised, any adjective is not.

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German \Leftarrow more systematic—including recent rules—any noun is capitalised, any adjective is not.

Also \Leftarrow personal pronouns in a letter.

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Titles in bibliographies

German \implies no special rule.

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Titles in bibliographies

German \implies no special rule.

English \implies are capitalised:

- ▶ the first and last words,
- ▶ nouns and adjectives, personal, possessive and relative pronouns, adverbs, subordinate conjunctions.

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Are not capitalised:

- ▶ articles, prepositions, coordinating conjunctions,
- ▶ unless these words are at the first or last place.

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Example: *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat*.

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Example: *The Man Who Mistook His Wife For a Hat*.
(Michael Nyman's)

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Capitalise it (its first member).

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Capitalise it (its first member).

For the other members, remove the hyphen character mentally, and apply the preceding rules.

Composed word in a title in English

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Capitalise it (its first member).

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Exemple: Long Run-In.

In French

If the title is a complete sentence, no additional capitalisation:

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In French

If the title is a complete sentence, no additional capitalisation:

Nous n'irons plus nous baigner dans le lac

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In French

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If the title is a complete sentence, no additional capitalisation:

Nous n'irons plus nous baigner dans le lac

If it is a *connection* of noun groups, capitalise main nouns and adjectives until the last member of such a group:

▶ *La Bourse ou la Vie ?*

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If it is a *connection* of noun groups, capitalise main nouns and adjectives until the last member of such a group:

- ▶ *La Bourse ou la Vie ?*
- ▶ *Le Grand Lac et le Feu de joie*

If the title is a complete sentence, no additional capitalisation:

Nous n'irons plus nous baigner dans le lac

If it is a *connection* of noun groups, capitalise main nouns and adjectives until the last member of such a group:

- ▶ *La Bourse ou la Vie ?*
- ▶ *Le Grand Lac et le Feu de joie*
- ▶ *Le Grand Lac, toujours froid*
- ▶ *Le Grand Lac, qui de sensé s'y baigne ?*

French titles

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As abovementioned, this rules is too complicated and in practice, people capitalise nouns and adjectives.

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Internationalisation

Very various rules!

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