CHAPTER 22: CAPITAL LETTERS

FIRST WORDS, PROPER ADJECTIVES, SCHOOL SUBJECTS

220 Capitalize the first word in every sentence.

EXAMPLES Those lilies look beautiful.

My sister grew them.

The first word of a direct quotation should begin with a capital letter, whether or not the quotation starts the sentence.

EXAMPLE Dezba announced, "We found your key!"



REFERENCE NOTE: For more information about using capital letters in quotations, see page 279.

Traditionally, the first word of every line of poetry begins with a capital letter.

EXAMPLE I wonder if an orchard grieves
To see the falling of its leaves.



Some modern poets do not follow this style. If you are quoting lines from a poem, be sure to follow the capitalization that the poet uses.

22p Capitalize proper adjectives.

A *proper adjective* is formed from a proper noun and is always capitalized.

Proper Nouns	Proper Adjectives
China	Chinese art
Shakespeare	Shakespearean theater
Rome	Roman statues
Texas	Texas chili

22q Do not capitalize the names of school subjects, except course names followed by a number and languages.

EXAMPLES art, science, Mathematics 101, Typing II, German, Spanish

EXERCISE 8 Using Capital Letters Correctly

On the lines below, rewrite the following passage to correct all errors in the use of capital letters.

[1] In english we read a poem by an American poet. [2] The poem was about chinese porcelain. [3] according to the poet, pieces of beautiful, old porcelain sometimes wash up on the beach. [4] After we read this poem, I tried writing my own poem. Here are a few lines:

the sea so like a mystery reveals the pieces of history. from restless depths for me to see an ancient world so new to me.

fragments came all the way across the ocean."		