

# Titles Used with People

## 13h. Capitalize titles.

(1) Capitalize a person's title when the title comes before the person's name.

Generally, a title used alone or following a person's name is not capitalized, especially if the title is preceded by *a*, *an*, or *the*. However, a title used alone in direct address is usually capitalized.

**EXAMPLES** Captain Nemo      Dr. Lo      Ms. Kohari      the colonel  
How are you, Lieutenant?      What did the lieutenant say?

(2) Capitalize a word showing a family relationship when the word is used before or in place of a person's name, unless the word follows a possessive noun or pronoun.

**EXAMPLES** That's Mom.      That's my mom.  
Aunt Toski      Una's aunt Toski

**EXERCISE A** Two choices appear in parentheses in each of the following sentences. Circle the choice that has correct capitalization.

**Example 1.** We have to wait only fifteen more minutes until (Uncle Marshall's, uncle Marshall's) plane arrives from Minneapolis!

- After a tense campaign, the Latin Club finally elected its next (*President, president*).
- What day of the week will (*Dr. Karnik, dr. Karnik*) be taking another look at Catherine's sprained ankle?
- If you want an opinion about crime in this town, just ask (*Constable Taylor, constable taylor*).
- Serena's (*Sister Amy, sister Amy*) used to be a conductor of the Seattle Girls' Choir.
- Our next-door neighbor was the (*Mayor, mayor*) of Des Moines over twenty years ago.

**EXERCISE B** In each sentence below, draw a slanting line through any error in capitalization and write the letter correctly above the error.

**Example 1.** My <sup>m</sup>~~M~~om's insisting that I go to the <sup>d</sup>~~D~~octor.

- The leader of the service this morning will be rabbi Schmidt.
- If you ever get the chance to watch a trial at the Supreme Court, you will likely be impressed with the Justices and their knowledge of each case.
- Signs all around town urged voters to reelect judge Perez.
- The candidates thanked professor Sherman for arranging the round-table discussion.
- Marta's Brother Marcus says he owes his interest in chemistry to professor Frazee.