

Common and Proper Adjectives

Common adjectives are generally not capitalized. A *proper adjective* is formed from a proper noun. Like a proper noun, it is capitalized.

COMMON ADJECTIVE Did you see **beautiful** butterflies?

PROPER NOUN This butterfly is found in **Africa**.

PROPER ADJECTIVE The **African** giant swallowtail is a large butterfly.

EXERCISE A In the following sentences, underline all common adjectives once and all proper adjectives twice. Do not underline the articles *a*, *an*, and *the*.

Example 1. I have learned to prepare delicious Japanese sushi.

1. I like melodious and eerie Celtic music.
2. Do you prefer Spanish architecture?
3. I'm fascinated by the stories from Greek mythology.
4. Would you come to my New Year's Eve party?
5. Was T. S. Eliot American or English?
6. I love your Australian accent!
7. I am studying Roman architecture as well as modern styles of building.
8. I asked for a gray pony for my thirteenth birthday, but I didn't get one.
9. Ashley Bryan is a master storyteller.
10. Bryan has also illustrated books such as *It's Kwanzaa Time!*

EXERCISE B Change each of the following proper nouns into a proper adjective, and use the adjective to modify a noun.

Example 1. Asia Asian friend

11. Italy _____
12. Buddhism _____
13. Midwest _____
14. Labor Day _____
15. California _____