



# Capitalization and Accents Lesson Plan



**Video: 12 minutes Lesson: 38 minutes**

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## Pre-viewing

- **:00 Warm up:** Have students review proper pronunciation. **2 minutes**
- **:02 Pre-test:** In all lowercase letters, write some English words on the board (like john, dog, chicago, pencil, american, etc.). Ask the students to identify which words should be capitalized and which should not. As you discuss each word, write the Spanish equivalent on the board next to it. Ask students if they can think of any words that have accents. Write them on the board. Ask students to pronounce them. Go over the learning objectives. **4 minutes**

## Viewing

- **:06 Playing Video:** Hand out the Viewing Guide and go over viewing questions and expectations. While the program is playing, pay careful attention to students' reactions. Difficult concepts include the capitalization rules that apply to days of the weeks and months, proper nouns and adjectives, book titles, and the use of accents to differentiate words that are spelled the same. Pause and check students' comprehension periodically after key points. **12 minutes**

## Post-viewing

- **:18 Question & Answer Session:** Ask the class for the answers to the viewing questions. See if any parts of the program were difficult or confusing for the students. Ask a few questions to check their understanding of the key topics. **5 minutes**

### Sample Questions

1. How are the days of the week capitalized differently than in English?
2. What are some similarities in capitalization in English and Spanish? Differences?
3. What are the two reasons for using accents?

## Handouts

- **:23 Practicing Material:** Hand out the Worksheet and give the class 6-8 minutes to complete it. Students are allowed to use their Viewing Guide. Monitor the students' progress, helping where needed. Go over Worksheet as a class. **10 minutes**
- **:33 Applying Material:** Hand out the Activity. Give the students 5 minutes to complete it on their own, and then read aloud as a class, reviewing capitalization corrections after each line. **13 minutes**
- **:46 Wrap-up:** Briefly sum up what has been covered in class, using the students to do the summary. Assign any homework. **4 minutes**

## Viewing Questions Answer Key

1. If you were to apply Spanish capitalization rules to the sentence "My birthday is on Friday, February fourteenth," what would you change? **My birthday is on friday, february fourteenth.**
2. Can you name some English words that would be capitalized differently in Spanish? **Answers will vary, see Viewing Guide for examples.**
3. How do you pronounce the following Spanish words?  
a) solo      b) sólo      c) café      d) rápido      e) árboles (trees)  
a) so-LOH      b) SOH-lo      c) cah-FEY      d) RAH-pe-doh      e) AR-boh-les



# Capitalization and Accents Teacher's Reference Guide

Module  
**2**

*Video: 12 minutes Lesson: 38 minutes*

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## Learning Objectives

At the end of the module, students will be able to:

- define, pronounce and correctly spell vocabulary words
- apply the rules of capitalization for:
  - days of the week
  - names of months
  - the pronoun *yo* ("I")
  - proper nouns and proper adjectives
  - proper names
  - people's titles
  - book titles
- describe the reasons for using accents in Spanish
- properly pronounce words with accents and apply stress to the proper syllable

## Materials

- *Video*: vocabulary, capitalization, accents; 12 minutes long
- *Viewing Guide*: vocabulary, capitalization rules, accent usage review; 3 Viewing Questions
- *Worksheet*: capitalization practice, accent practice
- *Activity Sheet*: application of capitalization rules in context
- *Check Your Knowledge*: vocabulary, capitalization rules, accent rules; 50 points

## Background

Students should understand and be able to apply the rules for proper Spanish pronunciation.

## Preparation

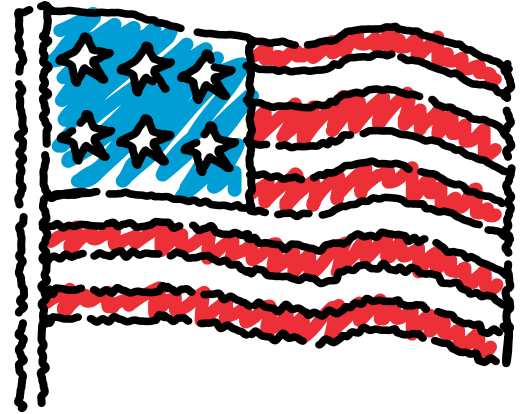
None required.

### Extension:

Ask the students to get a copy of a newspaper. Have them pick a page and go through and circle all words that would be capitalized differently in Spanish. Offer a prize to the student that can find the most examples on one page.

## VOCABULARY

|   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| <b>americano(a)</b> – American            | <b>el nombre</b> – name          |
| <b>el modo americano</b> – American way   | <b>nuevo(a)</b> – new            |
| <b>el café</b> – coffee                   | <b>el presidente</b> – president |
| <b>café colombiano</b> – Colombian coffee | <b>la rosa</b> – rose            |
| <b>colombiano(a)</b> – Colombian          | <b>solo(a)</b> – alone           |
| <b>loco(a)</b> – lunatic; crazy           | <b>sólo</b> – only               |
| <b>el modo</b> – manner; way              | <b>el sombrero</b> – hat         |



## SPANISH CAPITALIZATION RULES

### Days of the Week and Months

The names of the days of the week and the months are not capitalized in Spanish.

*febrero* / February

*martes* / Tuesday

### The Pronoun Yo

Yo, the pronoun that means “I,” is not capitalized.

*El cree que yo soy una rata asquerosa.*

He thinks that I am a dirty rat.

### Proper Adjectives

Proper adjectives are not capitalized.

*café colombiano* / Colombian coffee

*el modo americano* / the American way

### Proper Nouns

Proper nouns are not capitalized

*El americano loco* / the crazy American

### The Beginning of a Sentence

As in English, capitalize the first letter of a sentence.

*El burro es guapo.* / The donkey is handsome.

### Proper Names

Capitalize all proper names, including the names of cities, countries, companies, streets, etc.

*Alonso Vargas* / Alonso Vargas

*México* / Mexico

### People’s Titles

Do not capitalize people’s titles.

*el presidente Nixon* / President Nixon

### Book Titles

Only capitalize the first word of a book title, unless the title contains a proper name.

*El nombre de la rosa* / The Name of the Rose

*Los pantalones locos de Paul* / Paul’s Crazy Pants

## Accents are used:

to indicate an irregular stress pattern in a word, like *rápido* (fast)

or

to differentiate between two words that are spelled the same way but have different meanings, like *solo* (alone) and *sólo* (only).

Accents are part of how a word is spelled.

Memorize them along with the letters of the word!!!

## Viewing Questions

1. If you were to apply Spanish capitalization rules to the sentence “My birthday is on Friday, February fourteenth,” what would you change?
2. Can you name some English words that would be capitalized differently in Spanish?
3. How do you pronounce the following Spanish words? a) *solo* b) *sólo* c) *café* d) *rápido* e) *árboles* (trees)

## A. Herschel's Mixed-up Scrapbook

Okay, now that we've shown you the rules of capitalization, we could use your help. Correct the capitalization in the captions in Herschel's scrapbook. You can use your Viewing Guide for help.



mi libro favorito: *Dos Gatos Locos*  
(my favorite book: Two Crazy Cats)



Todd y Profesor Einstein  
(Todd and Professor Einstein)



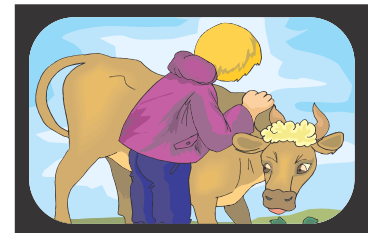
¡mi sombrero es muy grande!  
(My sombrero is very big!)



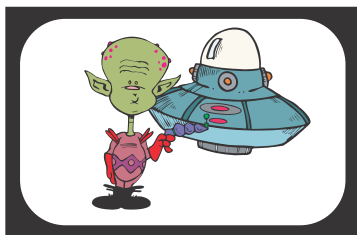
un coche Americano en españa  
(an American car in Spain)



Amy en un restaurante en chilé  
(Amy in a restaurant in Chile)



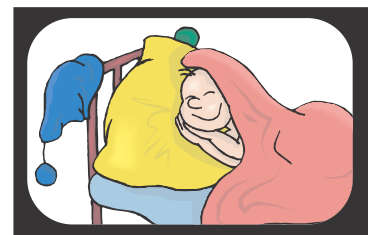
una vaca y emily  
(a cow and Emily)



el 28 de Marzo de 2000  
(March 28th, 2000)



¡Comida Colombiana! ¡Yum!  
(Colombian food! Yum!)



8:00 a.m., Sábado  
(8:00 a.m., Saturday)

## B. Stressed Out Over Accents!

Nobody's perfect, especially Herschel! This time, Herschel forgot to add accents to the following words. Put the accent in the correct place and underline the syllable of the word that should be stressed, then practice saying the word aloud. We've completed the first one for you.

azúcar – sugar

rapido – fast

cafe – coffee

solo – only

arboles – trees

Mexico – Mexico

## A. Herschel's Mixed-up Scrapbook

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(my favorite book: Two Crazy Cats)

mi libro favorito: Dos gatos locos



Todd y Profesor Einstein  
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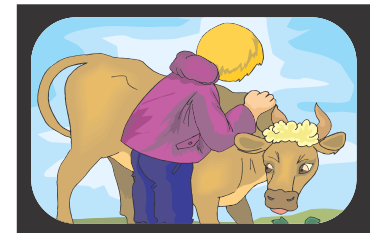
un coche Americano en españa  
(an American car in Spain)

un coche americano en España



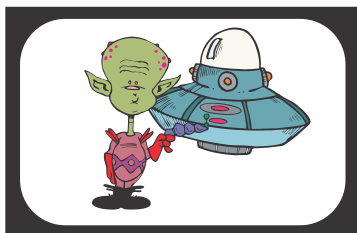
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una vaca y emily  
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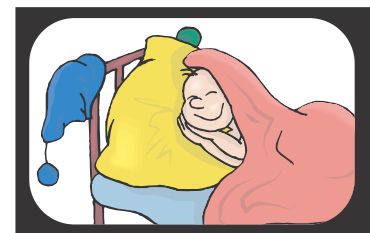
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azúcar – sugar

rápido – fast

café – coffee

sólo – only

árboles – trees

México – Mexico



# Capitalization and Accents Activity

Module  
2

Apply the rules of Spanish capitalization to the following English text (yeah, we know it sounds weird, but it's an easy way to practice your Spanish capitalization skills). Circle everything that should be lowercase. We appreciate your help.

**Example:** Sorry, Captain John, we only serve chocolate-covered Canadian bacon on Tuesdays, not Fridays!

## The Adventures of Smacker McGee, the High School Superhero: Part 17

**Announcer:** "We rejoin our hero, Smacker McGee, and Hoss, his faithful canine sidekick, far below the halls and classrooms of Micropolis High School at the secret hideout of villainous Chef Stanky. When we left them last week, Smacker and Hoss had just discovered Chef Stanky and his captive, Amy Schoolwell, the beautiful daughter of Micropolis High School's principal, Cyrus Schoolwell. Bound and gagged, Amy Schoolwell struggles in vain to escape from the giant mixing bowl in which she has been imprisoned. Chef Stanky smirks as he casually fingers a button labeled 'Engage Choc-o-Matic.'"

**Smackers:** "Let her go, Chef Stanky! You know that Principal Schoolwell will never let you get away with this!"

**Hoss:** "Ruff!" (Translation: "He's right! Let her go or you'll be sorry!")

**Stanky:** "Ahhh, if it isn't Smackers the super-loser and his mangy mutt, Hoss. Well, for your information, Principal Schoolwell is meeting right now with the Mexican ambassador to secure the ransom that I have demanded."

**Smackers:** "What ransom? What do the Mexicans have to do with this?"

**Stanky:** "Piñatas—Mexican piñatas, to be more precise, the finest in the world. 10,000 of 'em! On the black market they're worth millions!! But if they're not delivered by 3rd period on Tuesday, Amy here is going to take a swim in 1,000 gallons of pure, unfiltered Belgian chocolate. And we all know what will happen then—"

**Smackers:** "No! Not Belgian chocolate! Amy gets awful pimples if she even gets near chocolate! And if today is Monday, March 30th, then that means that—"

**Stanky:** "That's right! The prom is scheduled for Friday, April 3rd, less than one week away. There's no way Principal Schoolwell will allow his daughter to be a pimply mess at the prom. And you can't stop me either—"

**Smackers:** "That's what you think, Stanky! You're no match against my super-speed...unghhhhhh...oh no! My feet are stuck! Something's creeping up my leg! I can't move!"

**Hoss:** "Ruff!" (Translation: "I can't move, either!")

**Stanky:** "That's because you're both standing in a batch of my famous 'super-sticky tricky taffy.' It sticks like glue as it slowly creeps up your entire body. In thirty minutes, you'll be covered! Victory is mine!"

**Smackers:** "Drats! If I had only paid more attention to that chapter in *The High School Superhero Handbook* on battling evil dessert recipes. There must be a way out of this mess, but how?"

**Announcer:** "Will Smackers and Hoss escape this sticky situation? Will Chef Stanky get away with his evil plan? Will Amy make it to the prom zit-free? Tune in next time for the exciting conclusion of this adventure!"



# Capitalization and Accents Activity Answer Key



Apply the rules of Spanish capitalization to the following English text (yeah, we know it sounds weird, but it's an easy way to practice your Spanish capitalization skills). Circle everything that should be lowercase. We appreciate your help.

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# Capitalization and Accents Check Your Knowledge



Total Score  
/ 50

## A. Vocabulary: How Do You Say?

Translate these words from English to Spanish. (2 points each)

- |                 |                    |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| 1. rose _____   | 2. hat _____       |
| 3. crazy _____  | 4. new _____       |
| 5. coffee _____ | 6. Colombian _____ |

## B. To Capitalize. . .

Circle each word, name, or phrase in which the underlined letter(s) should be CAPITALIZED, according to the Spanish rules for capitalization. (1 point each)

- |                               |                               |                             |                      |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| <u>o</u> nce upon a time. . . | g <u>u</u> atemala            | <u>c</u> ell phone          | <u>f</u> riday       |
| <u>m</u> onkey                | <u>c</u> olombia              | <u>p</u> arsley             | <u>m</u> exico       |
| <u>b</u> ob <u>d</u> ylan     | <u>m</u> arch                 | <u>l</u> ibrary             | <u>i</u> talian food |
| <u>c</u> aptain ahab          | <u>b</u> altic <u>a</u> venue | <u>n</u> ew <u>o</u> rleans | <u>j</u> apanese     |

## C. . . Or Not To Capitalize

Circle each word, name, or phrase in which the underlined letter(s) should be LOWERCASE according to the Spanish rules for capitalization. (1 point each)

- |                             |                                     |                                       |                 |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <u>C</u> anada              | <u>A</u> merican                    | <u>G</u> eorge <u>W</u> ashington     | <u>C</u> hicago |
| <u>A</u> ugust              | <u>W</u> illiam <u>S</u> hakespeare | <u>K</u> ing George                   | <u>S</u> panish |
| <u>G</u> reek               | <u>S</u> ears and <u>R</u> oebuck   | <u>S</u> unday                        | <u>I</u> taly   |
| <u>M</u> ain <u>S</u> treet | <u>G</u> eneral MacArthur           | To <u>K</u> ill a <u>M</u> ockingbird | <u>I</u>        |

## D. Accents!

Indicate whether the following statements are true or false. Use T for true and F for false. (1 point each)

In Spanish, accents are used to:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. _____ indicate an irregular stress pattern in a word.      | 2. _____ indicate that the word comes from another language.        |
| 3. _____ indicate which syllable you should stress in a word. | 4. _____ differentiate between two words that are spelled the same. |
| 5. _____ indicate that a vowel is silent.                     | 6. _____ differentiate between two words that mean the same thing.  |





# Capitalization and Accents Check Your Knowledge



Total Score  
/ 50

## Answer Key

### A. Vocabulary: How Do You Say?

Translate these words from English to Spanish. (2 points each)

- |           |                |              |                      |
|-----------|----------------|--------------|----------------------|
| 1. rose   | <u>la rosa</u> | 2. hat       | <u>el sombrero</u>   |
| 3. crazy  | <u>loco(a)</u> | 4. new       | <u>nuevo(a)</u>      |
| 5. coffee | <u>el café</u> | 6. Colombian | <u>colombiano(a)</u> |

### B. To Capitalize...

Circle each word, name, or phrase in which the underlined letter(s) should be CAPITALIZED, according to the Spanish rules for capitalization. (1 point each)

- |                          |                      |                    |                     |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| <u>once upon a time.</u> | <u>guatemala</u>     | <u>cell phone</u>  | <u>friday</u>       |
| <u>monkey</u>            | <u>colombia</u>      | <u>parsley</u>     | <u>mexico</u>       |
| <u>bob dylan</u>         | <u>march</u>         | <u>library</u>     | <u>italian food</u> |
| <u>captain ahab</u>      | <u>baltic avenue</u> | <u>new orleans</u> | <u>japanese</u>     |

### C... Or Not To Capitalize

Circle each word, name, or phrase in which the underlined letter(s) should be LOWERCASE according to the Spanish rules for capitalization. (1 point each)

- |                    |                            |                              |                |
|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| <u>Canada</u>      | <u>American</u>            | <u>George Washington</u>     | <u>Chicago</u> |
| <u>August</u>      | <u>William Shakespeare</u> | <u>King George</u>           | <u>Spanish</u> |
| <u>Greek</u>       | <u>Sears and Roebuck</u>   | <u>Sunday</u>                | <u>Italy</u>   |
| <u>Main Street</u> | <u>General MacArthur</u>   | <u>To Kill a Mockingbird</u> | <u>I</u>       |

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Indicate whether the following statements are true or false. Use T for true and F for false. (1 point each)

In Spanish, accents are used to:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <u>T</u> indicate an irregular stress pattern in a word.      | 2. <u>F</u> indicate that the word comes from another language.        |
| 3. <u>T</u> indicate which syllable you should stress in a word. | 4. <u>T</u> differentiate between two words that are spelled the same. |
| 5. <u>F</u> indicate that a vowel is silent.                     | 6. <u>F</u> differentiate between two words that mean the same thing.  |



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