In this lesson, students engage in a fun activity that involves pulling out words from a brown lunch bag. Give your kids a fun way to prove that they’ve have mastered the rules of capitalization.

**Learning Objectives**

Students will understand that proper nouns should be capitalized.

**Materials and preparation**

- Chart paper used as an anchor chart for the following capitalization rules: 1) Capitalize the word I. 2) Capitalizes the names of people, places or a holiday. 3) Capitalize the name of month, days, and holidays. 4) Capitalize the titles of books, games, programs, and movies.
- 3" X 5" index cards, cut in half. (On the index cards, write down a variety of common and proper nouns. Do not capitalize any of the nouns.)
- Markers

**Key terms**

- common noun
- proper noun

**Introduction (10 minutes)**

- Tell students they will be playing a game in today’s lesson; however, they must learn the rules first.
- The game rules are also the rules of capitalization, so tell them they will be reviewing those rules before they can play the game.
- Display your capitalization rules anchor chart where all students can see it.
- Emphasize that common nouns don’t need to be capitalized, but proper nouns do.

**Explicit Instruction/Teacher modeling (10 minutes)**

- Tell students that the class will discuss the rules for capitalizing nouns.
- Direct students to the capitalization anchor chart.
- Ask for student volunteers to read each rule.
- Discuss the rules in detail. For example, discuss what types of places are capitalized.
- Write examples of each rule on the board. Ask for student contributions to your list.
- Check for understanding before you move on to the game.

**Guided Practice (20 minutes)**

- Place the index cards you prepared into the brown paper lunch bag.
- Students will take turns coming up and pulling an index card out of the bag. They will read the card and say whether the noun needs to be capitalized. They should also be able to explain how they determined whether it needed to be capitalized.
Independent working time (10 minutes)

- Ask students to take out a piece of notebook paper.
- Tell them to write three sentences.
- The first sentence should have the name of a city, state, and country in it.
- The second sentence should have the name of a person, month, and holiday.
- The third sentence should have the name of a book title or a movie title.
- Write down these directions and display them so that students can reference them while they are writing.
- These papers will also be used as exit slips and should be collected when completed.

Differentiation

- **Enrichment:** Ask advanced students to create colorful anchor charts with the capitalization rules. Display their completed posters throughout the room.
- **Support:** Students that are struggling could work in a small group with you to practice the rules.

Assessment (5 minutes)

- Review the exit slips and write feedback.
- Make a note of any students that may need small group intervention.

Review and closing (5 minutes)

- Review the difference between common and proper nouns.