Special or General?

Sort names and everyday words.

L.2.2 "When writing: Capitalize proper nouns, including but not limited to holidays, product names and geographic names. Demonstrate appropriate use of commas in varied communication formats (e.g., letter, email, blog)..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

SPECIAL NAME

A special name tells exactly which person, place, holiday, or product you mean. Begin it with a capital letter.

Diwali

GENERAL WORD

A general word tells what kind of person, place, or thing you mean, not its exact name. It usually starts with a lowercase letter.

celebration

1 SORT

8 items

Circle a category for each item; then choose two items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

1. Lena — SPECIAL / GENERAL
2. teacher — SPECIAL / GENERAL
3. store — SPECIAL / GENERAL
4. Oreo — SPECIAL / GENERAL
5. Boston — SPECIAL / GENERAL
6. Texas — SPECIAL / GENERAL
7. friend — SPECIAL / GENERAL
8. cookie — SPECIAL / GENERAL

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

Pick two items from Part 1. For each one, tell how you knew where it belonged.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

Write one new special name and one new general word.

SPECIAL _____

GENERAL _____

CHALLENGE

Write a sentence with a product's special name and a general word for that product.

ANSWER KEY

Special or General?

GRADE 2 · L.2.2

PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	Lena	**SPECIAL**	Lena is a person's specific name.
2	teacher	**GENERAL**	Teacher names a kind of person, not a specific person.
3	store	**GENERAL**	Store names a kind of place, not a specific place.
4	Oreo	**SPECIAL**	Oreo is a product name.
5	Boston	**SPECIAL**	Boston is a city's specific name.
6	Texas	**SPECIAL**	Texas is a state's specific name.
7	friend	**GENERAL**	Friend names a kind of person, not a specific person.
8	cookie	**GENERAL**	Cookie names a kind of food, not a specific product.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **SPECIAL**: Maya
- **GENERAL**: neighbor

Challenge: I drank Sprite soda.

For Part 2, accept explanations that identify a special name as the name of one specific person, place, or product, or a general word as a kind of person, place, or thing. For Part 3, accept other correctly capitalized special names and lowercase general words.