# Family Name Sort

When does a family word need a capital letter?

**4.5.W.4** "Students will capitalize familial relations, proper adjectives, conventions of letter writing, and the first letter of a quotation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

### CAPITAL LETTER

Capitalize a family word when you use it like a person's name. This includes a family word before the person's name.

We phoned Grandpa on Friday.

### LOWERCASE LETTER

Use a lowercase letter when a family word tells how people are related, rather than acting as a name.

Our grandmother planted tulips.

## 1 SORT

8 items

For each bracketed family word, circle CAPITAL or LOWERCASE, then choose two items and explain how you knew.

**1.** I told [mom] the news. CAPITAL LOWERCASE

**2.** We waited for [dad] outside. CAPITAL LOWERCASE

**3.** Her [aunt] lives nearby. CAPITAL LOWERCASE

**4.** I called [aunt] Kim yesterday. CAPITAL LOWERCASE

**5.** My [dad] fixed the bike. CAPITAL LOWERCASE

**6.** A [mom] read to the class. CAPITAL LOWERCASE

**7.** We mailed [uncle] Ravi a letter. CAPITAL LOWERCASE

**8.** Did [mom] see the kite? CAPITAL LOWERCASE

## 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 two new sentences: one with a capitalized family word used as a name and one with a lowercase family word that names a relationship.

**CAPITAL** _____

**LOWERCASE** _____

**CHALLENGE**

Write one sentence using the same family word twice, once as a name and once as a relationship word.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Family Name Sort

**GRADE 4 · 4.5.W.4**

## PART 1 · SORT

| # | ITEM | CATEGORY | WHY |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | I told [mom] the news. | **CAPITAL** | Mom is used as a name. |
| 2 | We waited for [dad] outside. | **CAPITAL** | Dad is used as a name. |
| 3 | Her [aunt] lives nearby. | **LOWERCASE** | Her shows that aunt names a relationship. |
| 4 | I called [aunt] Kim yesterday. | **CAPITAL** | Aunt is part of Aunt Kim's name. |
| 5 | My [dad] fixed the bike. | **LOWERCASE** | My shows that dad names a relationship. |
| 6 | A [mom] read to the class. | **LOWERCASE** | A shows that mom is not used as a name. |
| 7 | We mailed [uncle] Ravi a letter. | **CAPITAL** | Uncle is part of Uncle Ravi's name. |
| 8 | Did [mom] see the kite? | **CAPITAL** | Mom is used as a name. |

## 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)

- **CAPITAL**: I baked cookies with Nana.
- **LOWERCASE**: His cousin rides a scooter.

**Challenge:** Aunt Lily visited my aunt on Saturday.

The bracketed words show where students decide whether to use a capital or lowercase first letter. For Part 2, accept explanations that tell whether the word acts as a name or names a relationship.