

LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS: CAPITALIZATION OF PROPER NOUNS

Proper nouns name a specific person, place, thing, or idea. Proper nouns are capitalized to help distinguish them from common nouns, which serve as general names for people, places, things, or ideas. In *The Breadwinner* proper nouns are used in the following ways.

To name specific people

Parvana realized Mrs. Weera was right.

To name specific places, such as cities

"You'll be our cousin from Jalalabad," said Nooria, "come to stay with us while our father is away."

• To name a specific thing, in this case, the title of the novel

The Breadwinner

Practice and Apply Write your own sentences using capitalized proper nouns, following the examples from *The Breadwinner*. Your sentences can be about how Parvana faces challenges or ways in which you or someone else found courage in the face of fear. When you have finished, share your sentences with a partner. Check each other's work to see whether proper nouns have been capitalized and common nouns have been written in lowercase letters.

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