

Language Conventions #1

Mechanics

Use periods to abbreviate the Latin expressions we use to indicate *before noon* and *after noon*. *Antemeridian* is the time from midnight until noon and is abbreviated as “a.m.” *Postmeridian* is the time from noon until midnight and is abbreviated as “p.m.” **Examples:** 7:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.

Practice: I woke up this morning at 7:30 AM. because I fell asleep last night at 10:00 p.m.

Grammar and Usage

A proper noun is the name of a person, place, or thing. It can act or be acted upon and is capitalized. A proper noun can be a single word or a group of words and can be abbreviated or hyphenated. **Examples:** Pedro, Mrs. Chang, P.S., Stratford-upon-Avon

Sometimes the same word can name or not name a person, place, or thing. Capitalize the word only if it names or is part of a name. **Example:** They attended church at the First Baptist Church.

Practice: At the ceremony held in the State Rotunda, principal Taylor accepted the Blue Ribbon award on behalf of his students, parents, and teachers at Pinewood Middle School.