Why is Prolog a departure from many common languages?

Prolog is *declarative*, not *imperative*. You describe logic, not a flow of control.

What are the building blocks of Prolog?

Facts, rules, and queries.

What does the Prolog compiler do?

It compiles facts + rules (together called a *knowledge base*) to support for efficient querying.

What are the Prolog capitalization rules?

If a symbol begins with a lowercase character it's an atom - a

If it begins with an uppercase character it's a variable.

fixed value.