

READING UNCONTRACTED BRAILLE (Unified English Braille)

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INTRODUCTION

READING UNCONTRACTED BRAILLE covers letters of the alphabet, numbers and common punctuation. These are part of the Unified English Braille code (UEB) which also includes contractions, symbols and rules. The *Rules of Unified English Braille* is available for access and download at www.iceb.org/ueb/html.

After you have completed this short course you will be able to read signage, telephone numbers and communication from a braille reader, all of whom can produce uncontracted braille for you if you request it.

DEFINITIONS

Braille Cell: The braille cell is composed of six dots, three high and two wide. The dots, numbered from the top, are 1-2-3 down the left-hand side, and 4-5-6 down the right-hand side.

1 • • 4 upper dots

2 • • 5 middle dots

3 • • 6 lower dots

Braille Character: Any one of the 64 distinct patterns of dots, including the space, which can be expressed in a single braille cell.

Space: One blank cell.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EXERCISES

The braille reading exercises have been designed to give you practice in identifying braille characters.

It is important to master the braille characters in each lesson before moving on to the next one as each lesson builds on the previous one. Practice learning the dot configurations and, when you feel confident that you know the characters of the lesson, transcribe the exercise into print by writing or typing it. Check your completed exercise with the answers provided. Redo any lines which have an error and check again.

Move onto the next lesson when the current exercise is perfect.

LESSON 1

1.1 The First Ten Letters of the Alphabet

1.2 Punctuation: Comma

1.1 The First Ten Letters of the Alphabet

⠁ ⠂ ⠃ ⠄ ⠅ ⠆ ⠇ ⠈ ⠉ ⠊
a b c d e f g h i j

1.1.1 The letters *a-j* are formed from the upper dots (1 and 4) and the middle dots (2 and 5).

⠁⠃⠄⠆ ⠂⠃⠄⠆ ⠃⠃⠆⠆ ⠆⠃⠆⠆⠆⠆ ⠆⠃⠆⠆
acid beef cage deface egg

⠆⠃⠆⠆⠆⠆ ⠃⠃⠆⠆ ⠆⠃⠆⠆⠆⠆ ⠆⠃⠆⠆ ⠆⠃⠆⠆⠆⠆
fade gag hide ice jibe

1.2 Punctuation: Comma

⠃⠃⠆⠆ , middle dot 2

1.2.1 The order and spacing of braille punctuation signs follow print. A print space is represented by only one blank cell in braille. One blank cell is left between words.

⠁ ⠃⠃⠆⠆⠆⠆ ⠃⠃⠆⠆⠆⠆⠆⠆ ⠃⠃⠆⠆⠆⠆⠆⠆
a big, beech hedge

EXERCISE 1 - ANSWERS

he did cache a big jade,

a high chief had a fief,

a babe did a jagged jig,

a cafe did feed cabbage,

he jabbed a bibbed chef,

did he heed a caddie, eh

bagged a bee, big gaffe,

aha, a faded beige bead,

decide if he had a deed,

he hedged a fib, acceded

jaded, he defied a chief

be a chic cafe, add ice,

LESSON 2

2.1 The Second Ten Letters of the Alphabet

2.2 Punctuation: Apostrophe

2.1 The Second Ten Letters of the Alphabet

The letters *k-t* are formed by adding lower dot 3 to each of the first ten letters *a-j*.

⠠⠎ ⠠⠇ ⠠⠍ ⠠⠏ ⠠⠕ ⠠⠑ ⠠⠒ ⠠⠓ ⠠⠔ ⠠⠗
k l m n o p q r s t

⠠⠎⠠⠔⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠇⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠍⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠏⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠑⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠓⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
knock lamp moss name open

⠠⠏⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠒⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠗⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
piano faqs roost

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
stranger transport

2.2 Punctuation: Apostrophe

⠠⠠⠠ ⠠ lower dot 3

2.2.1 The apostrophe is spaced as in print.

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
mother's bright dress

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
'tis so, she can't strike

EXERCISE 2 - ANSWERS

kettle kiss knack knot kid

lack loose ledge latch lit

mock magpie motor mask met

name notes, neglect nickel

orphans' oranges, objects,

patrol print phantom posts

qintar's qat qanat qid qto

repeat report receipt room

sports' stores statistics,

transcribe threatened trip

kneel on the oak staircase

don't trip on a broken end

he often finds loose coins

EXERCISE 3 - ANSWERS

Zak McIvor, rushing as usual and short of money, dashed to his bank's ATM. When he was about to collect the cash, he sneezed twice. Ziva O'Hara, just next in line, queried if he might be allergic to money. Oh NO came the quick reply, with the added explanation, he just suffered from continual WITHDRAWAL SYMPTOMS. ... All laughed at this exchange. He went on his way, cash very safely in his leather wallet.

LESSON 4

4.1 Numeric Indicator

4.2 Decimal Point

4.3 Grade 1 Indicator

4.4 Punctuation: Question Mark, Colon, Semicolon

4.5 Paragraph

4.1 Numeric Indicator

⠠ dots 3456

The Arabic numbers 1-9 and 0 are formed by placing the numeric indicator ⠠ immediately before the lowercase letters *a-j*. The numeric indicator sets numeric mode.

⠠⠠	⠠⠡	⠠⠢	⠠⠣	⠠⠤	⠠⠥	⠠⠦	⠠⠧	⠠⠨	⠠⠠
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠				
10	25	47	911	2014					

4.2 Decimal Point

⠠⠨ . dots 256 [The decimal point is the same braille symbol as the period.]

The decimal point ⠠⠨ and the comma ⠠⠠ are both used within numeric mode. All other marks of punctuation terminate numeric mode. A space also terminates numeric mode.

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
33.3	6.175	.22	4,009.85

EXERCISE 4 - ANSWERS

Did you know that LOUIS BRAILLE was born on January 4th, 1809, in Coupvray near Paris? He was blinded at the age of 3, playing with an awl in his father's workshop.

Today's extra tasks: 1st buy .857l paint; 2nd get oil changed, top up 10.5gal gas; 3rd CARWASH; 4th haircut?

Early tomorrow: see Franz at 6:30am; chat over quick breakfast. Later on, we've tickets for the Blue Jays.

EXERCISE 5 - ANSWERS

The S&P/TSX composite index gained 60.59 points to a RECORD-SETTING close of 15,455.04! The gold sector was ahead about 3.3% as the 08/2014 gold contract gained \$12.50US-\$1,303.30 an oz. & after just 3 days of losses. Meanwhile, the Canadian\$ shed 0.6 of a ¢US to 92.47¢.

If you have \$5,000, you can earn interest @ 2% on new deposits, as advertised in July '14 by quite a few Can. banks!

EXERCISE 6 - ANSWERS

If you join Twitter, you'll
need user ID _ & PASSWORD
_ to keep up with GOSSIP!

“Phone 1 866 659 1843; email
store@cnib.ca; www.webstore.
cnib.ca/Login.aspx for vision
aids,” Zelda (our ILS go-to
contact) told us helpfully.

(Try tech5@espn7.com for
their sports newsletter. Only
\$4.45 a month — 10% less
annually than many others!)

“Your number is 23—you're
7th in line!” Quin announced.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

The following symbols list is in braille order. For a complete list go to: www.iceb.org *The Rules of Unified English Braille, Appendix 3*. The official version of the Rulebook (PDF and braille files) may be downloaded from the ICEB website. **Note: The rules are for contracted braille.**

SYMBOLS LIST

- ⠠ simple numeric fraction line, e.g. ⠠⠠⠠ ½
- ⠠ euro sign €
- ⠠ pound sterling £
- ⠠ yen sign (yuan sign) ¥
- ⠠ solidus (forward slash) overlay on following letter, e.g. ⠠⠠⠠ ø
- ⠠ opening angle bracket, less-than <
- ⠠ caret ^
- ⠠ tilde (swung dash) ~
- ⠠ closing angle bracket, greater-than >
- ⠠⠠ dagger, dagger as a cross †
- ⠠ copyright sign ©
- ⠠ degree sign °
- ⠠ paragraph sign ¶
- ⠠ registered sign ®
- ⠠ section sign §
- ⠠ trademark sign ™
- ⠠ female sign (Venus) ♀
- ⠠ male sign (Mars) ♂
- ⠠ cedilla below following letter, e.g. ⠠⠠⠠ ç
- ⠠ grave accent above following letter, e.g. ⠠⠠⠠ à
- ⠠ circumflex above following letter, e.g. ⠠⠠⠠ ô

