



“BRAILLE BASICS” PLUS



Transition Booklet into Unified English Braille (UEB)

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INTRODUCTION

With the recent changes in the Braille code, it can be confusing during this transition time for teachers and students alike. Some may come into contact with Braille signs that are from the old code while also being introduced to Unified English Braille (UEB). Braille Basics Plus has both the signs that have been discontinued as well as ‘some’ of the UEB code. This booklet has been designed to be a reference for parents, classroom teachers and beginner students learning the Braille code. It is not intended to have instructions on how to become a Braille transcriber in UEB. However, it can be a useful as a reference tool to Braille notes, holiday cards or to simply to look up a Braille sign. This booklet can also give some insights as to how the Braille contractions are connected within the code which can assist with learning Braille.

THE BRAILLE BASICS

The Braille code begins with a “cell” that consists of six dots as shown here → ⠠ and each dot has been assigned a number, as shown on the far right. → →→ →→ →→

1	4
2	5
3	6

When the dots are arranged within the six locations, they represent letters, words, parts of words, contractions, punctuations, and even numbers. For example, the letter ‘f’ consists of dot numbers 1, 2, 4 and looks like this (⠠). All together there are 63 possible dot combinations within a single cell. The Braille code can be increased by placing two (or more) cells side-by-side and that is the ‘plus’ of this booklet.

The letters A through J are the first ten letters of the alphabet. The rest of the alphabet builds upon these letters as you will note in the chart on the next page. Building the connection between the first ten letters and each row underneath them may help you build a true understanding of the Braille code.

As you build your understanding of the Braille code, please note: Braille was invented by a young French boy named Louis Braille when he was a young teen in the 1820s, and the letter 'w' was not in the French language. You can find the letter 'w' on row 7 (page 6) to show the interrelationship of where 'w' fits within the Braille code.

ALPHABET AND NUMBERS

Row 1											
	a	b		c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j

The second row is a repeat of the first ten letters while adding dot #3.

Row 2											
	k	l		m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t

The third row is a repeat of the first ten letters while adding dots #3 and #6.

Row 3											
	u	v	w	x	y	z	and	for	of	the	with

The fourth row demonstrates how adding the 'number sign' before the first ten letters changes the letter to a number. Only one number sign is needed to make higher numbers. For example the number 47 looks like this:

Row 4											
	#1	#2		#3	#4	#5	#6	#7	#8	#9	#0

ADDITIONAL ALPHABET NOTES

Something you may have noticed when comparing the first ten letters of the alphabet in the first row to the second ten letters in the second row is that the first ten letters use only the top four dots in the cell. Also, you may have noticed that the first eight letters have a dot one. This information can be helpful if you find yourself confused with the letters 'e' and 'i'. Simply remember that 'e' has dot 1 while 'i' does not and 'e' comes before the letter 'i' in the alphabet. Therefore 'e' has a dot 1 while 'i' does not. The same goes for the letters h and j. These four letters are confusing but remembering that the first eight letters have a dot one, can help. (Also the letters 'f' and 'd' can be confusing.)

NUMBERS

After looking at the above chart, you may be wondering how to switch back to letters after writing numbers. By simply putting a space after the number, the sign switches back to letters. However, if you want to write something like 92C (with no space) then you would write it like this ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ whereas the ⠠ sign changes numbers back to letters.

DROPPED LETTERS, PUNCTUATIONS AND WORDS

In the next section (row 5) you will note the first ten letters of the alphabet have been dropped or moved to the bottom four dots. Here, these signs can have numerous meanings depending on where they are located within the word or sentence. Please note: Where the ** are located indicates where the Braille sign is located within the word or sentence and that will indicate what the meaning is. Also, these dropped signs can represent a word only when there is a space before and after the sign.

Finally, in row six, you will see only two letters that can be in the bottom two dots of the cell. These two letters are 'a' and 'c'. The reason there are only two in this row is because none of the other letters can be dropped down any further.

DROPPED LETTERS, PUNCTUATIONS AND WORDS

(Words/contractions highlighted in yellow are such words 'only' when there is a space before and after the Braille sign.)

(Words/contractions highlighted in purple have been discontinued in UEB.)

NOTE: ** = word & where sign can be used in relation to such word.

Row 1 repeated	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
Row 5	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
	ea **, [comma] NOTE: This sign may never be used before a word as it may be confused as a dot-5 contraction. (Column 3, p. 7).	**bb** be** **, [semicolon]	**cc** con** **, [colon]	**dd** dis** \$ [dollar sign] **, [period]	**en** **en en** enough	**ff** to** **, [exclamation]	**gg** (****) [open & close parenthesis]	“** [open quote]	**in** in** **in [question mark]	**in** in** **in [close quote]
Row 6	⠠		⠠							
	, [apostrophe]		com** - [hyphen]							

Plus

The rest of this booklet includes the 'plus' sections. It consists of part-word signs, contractions, short-form words and punctuations. All of which may help you Braille that Christmas card for a relative, friend or loved one who happens to be blind. Don't worry if you make a mistake, they will simply jump for joy that you actually tried. Have fun!

PART-WORD SIGNS

(Words highlighted in yellow are such words 'only' when there is a space before and after the Braille sign.)

(Words/contractions highlighted in purple have been discontinued in UEB.)

("W" is not a Part-Word Sign but this is where you would find it within the interrelationship of the Braille code.)

Row 1 repeated										
Row 7 Only dot 6 added	 ch child	 gh	 sh shall	 th this	 wh which	 ed	 er	 ou out	 ow	 w
Row 8 Dot 5 added in front	 character			 through	 where			 ought		
Row 9 Dots 4 & 5 added in front				 those	 whose					
Row 10 Letters a and b are moved to the right column and dot 3 is added	 st / [bar, slash, fraction line] still	 ar								
Row 11 Letters a and b are move to the right column and dots 3 & 6 are added	 ing	 ble # [numerical indicator]								

CONTRACTIONS

(Words/contractions highlighted in purple have been discontinued in UEB)

Column 1 Letter (These are words 'only' when there is a space before and after the Braille sign.)	Column 2 Whole Word	Column 3 Adding Dot 5	Column 4 Dots 5 & 6	Column 5 Dots 4, 5 & 6	Column 6 Dots 4 & 6	Column 7 Dots 5 & 6	Column 8 Dot 6
b ⠠	= but						
c ⠠	= can			⠠⠠⠠ cannot			
d ⠠	= do	⠠⠠⠠ day			⠠⠠⠠ ound		
e ⠠	= every	⠠⠠⠠ ever			⠠⠠⠠ ance	⠠⠠⠠ ence	
f ⠠	= from	⠠⠠⠠ father					
g ⠠	= go					⠠⠠⠠ ong	
h ⠠	= have	⠠⠠⠠ here		⠠⠠⠠ had			
j ⠠	= just						

k	⠠⠅ = knowledge	⠠⠅⠠⠺⠏⠗⠺ know					
l	⠠⠇ = like	⠠⠇⠠⠗⠔⠝⠗ lord				⠠⠇⠠⠇⠠⠋⠇ ful	
m	⠠⠇ = more	⠠⠇⠠⠇⠠⠞⠑⠗ mother		⠠⠇⠠⠇⠠⠇⠠⠽⠝⠺ many			
n	⠠⠏ = not	⠠⠏⠠⠇⠠⠑ name			⠠⠏⠠⠇⠠⠝⠋⠝ sion	⠠⠏⠠⠇⠠⠝⠋⠝ tion	⠠⠏⠠⠇⠠⠝⠋⠝ ation
o		⠠⠝⠋ one					
p	⠠⠏ = people	⠠⠏⠠⠗⠠⠞ part					
q	⠠⠒ = quite	⠠⠒⠠⠞⠋⠋⠝⠗ question					
r	⠠⠗ = rather	⠠⠗⠠⠗⠠⠗⠗ right					
s	⠠⠎ = so	⠠⠎⠠⠇⠠⠇⠠⠍⠑ some		⠠⠎⠠⠇⠠⠇⠠⠗⠋⠗⠝⠗ spirit	⠠⠎⠠⠇⠠⠇⠠⠗⠑⠝⠗ less	⠠⠎⠠⠇⠠⠇⠠⠗⠑⠝⠗ ness	

t ⠠ = that	⠠⠠ time			⠠⠠⠠ ount	⠠⠠⠠⠠ ment	
u ⠠ = us	⠠⠠ under	⠠⠠ upon				
v ⠠ = very						
w ⠠ = will	⠠⠠ work	⠠⠠ word	⠠⠠ world			
x ⠠ = it						
y ⠠ = you	⠠⠠ young				⠠⠠⠠ ity	⠠⠠⠠ ally
z ⠠ = as						

Plus						
⠠ = the	⠠⠠ there	⠠⠠ these	⠠⠠ their			

SHORT-FORM WORDS

about	ab	⠠⠠	<p>NOTE: Letters that are underlined are 'contracted signs' in Braille. For example: <u>ST</u> = ⠠⠠</p>	altogether	Alt	⠠⠠⠠
above	abv	⠠⠠⠠		always	alw	⠠⠠⠠⠠
according	ac	⠠⠠		because	<u>bec</u>	⠠⠠⠠
across	acr	⠠⠠⠠		before	<u>bef</u>	⠠⠠⠠
after	af	⠠⠠		behind	<u>beh</u>	⠠⠠⠠
afternoon	afn	⠠⠠⠠		below	<u>bel</u>	⠠⠠⠠
afterward	afw	⠠⠠⠠		beneath	<u>ben</u>	⠠⠠⠠
again	ag	⠠⠠		beside	<u>bes</u>	⠠⠠⠠
against	ag <u>st</u>	⠠⠠⠠		between	<u>bet</u>	⠠⠠⠠
almost	alm	⠠⠠⠠		beyond	<u>bey</u>	⠠⠠⠠
already	alr	⠠⠠⠠		blind	bl	⠠⠠
also	al	⠠⠠		braille	brl	⠠⠠⠠⠠
although	al <u>th</u>	⠠⠠⠠		children	<u>chn</u>	⠠⠠⠠

conceive	<u>con</u> cv	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	<p>NOTE: Letters that are underlined are 'contracted signs' in Braille. For example: <u>ST</u> = ⠠⠠⠠</p> <p>(NOTE: Words or Contractions highlighted in purple have been discontinued in UEB.)</p>	him	hm	⠠⠠⠠
conceiving	<u>con</u> cvg	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		himself	hmf	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
could	cd	⠠⠠⠠		immediate	imm	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
deceive	dcv	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		its	xs	⠠⠠⠠
deceiving	dcvg	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		itself	xf	⠠⠠⠠
declare	dcl	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		letter	lr	⠠⠠⠠
declaring	dclg	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		little	ll	⠠⠠⠠
either	ei	⠠⠠⠠		much	<u>mch</u>	⠠⠠⠠
first	<u>fst</u>	⠠⠠⠠		must	<u>mst</u>	⠠⠠⠠
friend	fr	⠠⠠⠠		myself	myf	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
good	gd	⠠⠠⠠		necessary	nec	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
great	grt	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		neither	nei	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
herself	<u>her</u> f	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		<u>o'clock</u>	<u>o'c</u>	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

oneself	<u>one</u> f	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	<p>NOTE: Letters that are underlined are 'contracted signs' in Braille. For example: <u>ST</u> = ⠠⠠</p>	should	<u>sh</u> d	⠠⠠⠠⠠
ourselves	<u>our</u> vs	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		such	<u>sch</u>	⠠⠠⠠⠠
paid	pd	⠠⠠⠠		themselves	<u>them</u> vs	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
perceive	<u>perc</u> v	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		thyself	<u>th</u> yf	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
perceiving	<u>perc</u> v ^g	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		today	td	⠠⠠⠠
perhaps	<u>per</u> h	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		together	tgr	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
quick	qk	⠠⠠⠠		tomorrow	tm	⠠⠠⠠⠠
receive	rcv	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		tonight	tn	⠠⠠⠠⠠
receiving	rcv ^g	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		would	wd	⠠⠠⠠⠠
rejoice	rjc	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		your	yr	⠠⠠⠠⠠
rejoicing	rjc ^g	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠		yourself	yrf	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
said	sd	⠠⠠⠠		yourselves	yrvs	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Paired signs when the sentence is in the middle.			
Bracket Open	[⠠⠠	⠠⠠
Parenthesis Open	(⠠⠠	⠠⠠
Quote (double) Open	“	⠠	⠠
Quote (single) Open	‘	⠠⠠	⠠⠠
		Note: the sentence or word is usually in between these signs.	⠠⠠
			⠠⠠
			⠠
			⠠⠠
Miscellanies Signs	'	Apostrophe	⠠
	*	Asterisk	⠠⠠
	-	Dash	⠠⠠
	.	Decimal point	⠠
	\$	Dollar Sign	⠠⠠
	/	Slash Mark	⠠⠠

IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS PUNCTUATIONS

Signs found at the beginning**			**Signs found at the end.	
Capital letter	⠠	**	⠈	Colon
Capital word <small>(The whole word is capitalized.)</small>	⠠	**	⠇	Comma
Capital passage	⠠	**	⠒	Ellipsis
Capital terminator	⠠	**	⠆	Exclamation
Grade 1 symbol	⠠	**	⠚	Period
Grade 1 word	⠠	**	⠗	Question mark
Grade 1 passage	⠠	**	⠚	Semicolon
Grade 1 terminator	⠠	**	** = where the sentence is compared to the Braille sign.	
Italic Symbol	⠠	**		
Italic word	⠠	**		
Italic passage	⠠	**		
Italic terminator	⠠	**		

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Official codebooks for the Braille code (including Nemeth, Braille music, etc.) can be obtained from the American Printing House for the Blind at www.aph.org. For additional information please contact the Braille Authority of North America (www.brailleauthority.org), National Federation of the Blind (www.nfb.org or 410-659-9314) or go to Professional Development & Research Institute on Blindness (<http://www.pdrib.com>).

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