

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES FROM CURRENT LITERARY BRAILLE TO UEB

The following is not intended as a comprehensive list of each and every difference between UEB and current braille. However, it covers the most significant changes that will be noted by the general reader of braille.

CHANGES

Nine Contractions Eliminated

by into to
ble com dd
ation ally o'clock

The overarching reasons for deletion of these contractions are the need for accurate automatic forward- and back-translation between print and braille, the need to allow for more symbols without creating conflicts in the code, and the principle of reducing exceptions to braille rules. Here are more specifics:

- **ation** and **ally** were eliminated because they created complications in rules having to do with capital letters in the middle of words.
- **to**, **into**, and **by** were eliminated to allow for greater consistency in usage of other symbols. Also, the special spacing rules closed off options for making new symbols.
- **com** was eliminated to make room for greater flexibility in the placement and usage of hyphens and dashes. In current literary braille, a great deal of attention must be paid to the spacing of dashes etc., slowing down the production of accurate braille.
- **ble** was eliminated to allow for unambiguous reading and writing of numbers wherever they occur in literary contexts.
- **dd** was eliminated to allow for a single way to show the period/dot/decimal point even when it occurs in the middle of words or numbers.
- **o'clock** was eliminated because of a problem with capitalization. The extent of a capitalized word indicator (double dot 6) includes only the actual letters immediately following the indicator. This means that the apostrophe terminates the effect of the double dot 6 (this rule reduces the frequency of the use of the capitals mode terminator). If the short-form word "o'clock" were fully capitalized under this rule, it would look like this:

O'CLOCK
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

which is fairly awkward, and almost as long as the spelled out word. This is the only contraction with this problem and is relatively infrequently used.














Rather than keep this unwieldy construction or make a special rule for the capitalization of "o'clock", the contraction itself was eliminated.

Changed Punctuation and Other Symbols

The dot formations of these symbols will be different from the ones used in current literary braille. They were changed for various reasons, but most of the changes are designed so that these symbols do not require specific spacing rules as they currently do.

dollar	\$	⠠⠠⠠
percent	%	⠠⠠⠠
asterisk	*	⠠⠠⠠
degree	°	⠠⠠⠠
single closing quotation mark	'	⠠⠠⠠
dash	—	⠠⠠⠠
long dash	---	⠠⠠⠠⠠
ellipsis	...	⠠⠠⠠⠠
parentheses, opening and closing	()	⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠
bracket, square, opening and closing	[]	⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠
brace (curly brackets), opening and closing	{ }	⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠
paragraph	¶	⠠⠠⠠
section	§	⠠⠠⠠
transcriber's note, opening and closing		⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠

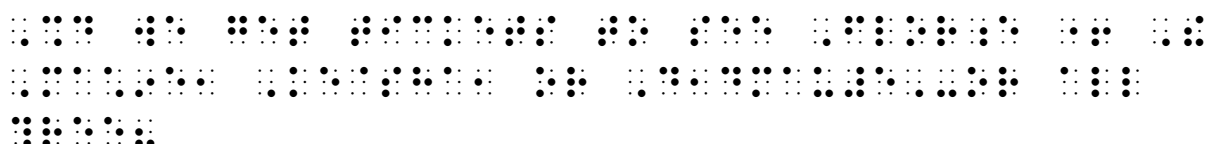
Note that the "at" sign will be ⠠⠠⠠ as it is in current literary braille, but can be used anywhere, including email addresses. Also, there is no longer a general termination indicator; termination of capitals and other effects is discussed later in this document.

backslash	\	
bullet	•	
tilde	~	
underscore	_	
equals	=	
plus	+	
minus	-	
multiplication	×	
division	÷	
angle brackets, opening and closing (or less than and greater than signs)	< >	 
dagger	†	
double dagger	‡	

Yellow + blue = green.



Should we get tickets to see Florence + The Machine, Ke\$ha, or Deadmau5—or all three?



All of them, please! You are the best! <3



Some Contractions Used More Often

To reduce exceptions and complexity in the contraction rules, contractions that stand for a group of letters will be used in some cases in which they are not used in current braille.

professor



atmosphere

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

reduce

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

erase

⠠⠠⠠⠠

renewed

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

However, these contractions are not used when they carry over the two parts of a compound word or when they would adversely affect pronunciation:

chemotherapy (no “mother” contraction)

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

enamel (no “name” contraction)

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

doghouse (no “gh” contraction)

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

hereditary (no “here” contraction)

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Grade 1

Dots 56, currently known as the letter sign, will be called the grade 1 symbol indicator and will mean that the character following it is not a contraction. Dots 56 will be used more consistently when a letter stands by itself (such as in a person’s middle initial). Dots 56 is not required before a single a, l, or o, which do not have contraction forms.

A double dot 56 means that the next word is in grade 1, and a triple dot 56 signals the beginning of a passage that will not include any contractions. The grade 1 passage is terminated with dots 56, 3.

X marks the spot.

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

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⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

TIPS FOR LEARNING AND REMEMBERING SOME SYMBOLS AND INDICATORS

Underline, Bold, and Italics Indicators

These indicators have prefixes as well as roots. The prefix indicates the type of attribute, and the root indicates how far it extends.

For the “begin” indicators, the prefixes are easy to remember:

Italics: dots 46, just like the current italics

Underline: dots 456, like the underscore in computer braille code

Bold: dots 45—a little like a letter b (b for bold) but on the other side of the cell.

The roots are the same for these three:

Letter: dots 23 (looks a little like a letter sign but on the other side of the cell)

Word: dot 2

Passage, dots 2356

	Prefix	Symbol (Root)	Word (Root)	Passage (Root)	Passage end (Root)
italic	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
bold	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
underline	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
grade 1	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠

Generally only the passage indicators need an “end” indicator; the prefixes for the endings are the same as for the beginning, and the root is dot 3.

The Accents (modifiers)

The root for the umlaut ⠠⠠ looks like two dots across, like the umlaut in print.

Acute and grave accents also slant the same way in braille as they do in print.

“Cedilla below” and “tilde above” are based on the current representations of these symbols used in foreign language contexts.

Where to Learn More

Comprehensive code books and symbols lists for UEB are available at www.iceb.org

Samples of material using UEB are available from www.brailleauthority.org

(Last updated March 11, 2013)