

**ENGLISH BRAILLE
AMERICAN EDITION 1994
REVISED 2002**

2007 Update



**Developed by the Literary Braille Technical Committee
of the Braille Authority of North America**

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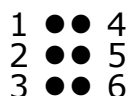
Table of Changes

Rule	Page	Change
Definition of Braille	1	Additional symbols section added
I	I-1	The bar; oblique stroke; fraction line sign and the line sign are now dealt with in Rule VII and Rule IX respectively
I 4a-b	I-4	Revised section
II	II-1	Transcriber's note symbol is added after "termination sign"
II 11	II-7	Entire section replaced
II 12b(1)	II-10	Examples updated
II 12b(5)	II-11	Example updated to show crosshatch
VI 27a(1)	VI-2	Example using ampersand deleted from this section and moved to Rule VIII 31g
VI 27e	VI-3	Rule change
VII 28a	VII-1	The slash is added to the list of symbols that do not terminate the effect of a number sign
VII 28c(1)	VII-2	Adds a description of the print representation of fractions
VII 28e	VII-4	Revised and expanded section demonstrates the use of the slash
VIII 31b	VIII-2	Symbols updated
VIII 31d	VIII-4	Wording and examples have been revised
VIII 31f	VIII-5	Example is revised to show the print happy face symbol as one with no braille counterpart
VIII 31g	VIII-5	New section adds additional symbols
XVI 47h	XVI-6	Brought into conformity with Rule I 4

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DEFINITION OF BRAILLE

Braille is a system of touch reading for the blind which employs embossed dots evenly arranged in quadrangular letter spaces or cells. In each cell, it is possible to place six dots, three high and two wide. By selecting one or several dots in characteristic position or combination, 63 different characters can be formed. To aid describing these characters by their dot or dots, the six dots of the cell are numbered 1, 2, 3, downward on the left, and 4, 5, 6, downward on the right, thus:



The 63 possible characters have a systematic arrangement and are universally grouped in a table of seven lines, as follows:

1st Line	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
2nd Line	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
3rd Line	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
4th Line	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
5th Line	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
6th Line	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
7th Line	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩

Line 1 is formed by dots 1, 2, 4, 5.

Line 2 adds dot 3 to each of the characters of Line 1.

DEFINITION OF BRAILLE

Line 3 adds dots 3-6 to each of the characters of Line 1.

Line 4 adds dot 6 to each of the characters of Line 1.

Line 5 repeats the characters of Line 1 in the lower portion of the cell, using dots 2, 3, 5, 6.

Line 6 is formed of dots 3, 4, 5, 6.

Line 7 is formed of dots 4, 5, 6.

Braille, as officially approved, comprises two systems. Uncontracted Braille is in full spelling and consists of the letters of the alphabet, punctuation, numbers, and a number of composition signs which are special to braille. Contracted Braille consists of Uncontracted Braille plus 189 contractions and short-form words, and should be known as "English Braille." Uncontracted braille should be designated as "Uncontracted English Braille." These systems have previously been designated as Grade 1 Braille (uncontracted braille) and Grade 2 Braille (contracted braille). Below is a complete chart of the characters and their meanings:

(**Note:** For other systems (grades) of braille, See App. C.)

ALPHABET AND NUMBERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
⠪	⠬	⠭	⠮	⠯	⠰	⠱	⠲	⠳	⠴
u	v	w	x	y	z				
⠵	⠶	⠷	⠸	⠹	⠺				

PUNCTUATION SIGNS

Sign	Meaning
⠠	, comma
⠠	; semicolon
⠠	: colon
⠠	. period
⠠	! exclamation point
⠠	() opening and closing parentheses
⠠⠠	[opening bracket
⠠⠠] closing bracket
⠠	? question mark
⠠	“ ” opening double quotation mark
⠠	” ” closing double quotation mark
⠠⠠	` ' opening single quotation mark
⠠⠠	' ' closing single quotation mark
⠠⠠	* asterisk
⠠	' ' apostrophe
⠠⠠⠠	... ellipsis
⠠	- hyphen
⠠⠠	— dash
⠠⠠⠠⠠	—— double dash

COMPOSITION SIGNS

Sign Meaning

⠠	non-Latin letter indicator
⠼	number sign
⠠	print symbol indicator
⠠	accent sign
⠠	decimal point
⠠	italic sign
⠠⠠	double italic sign
⠠	letter sign
⠠	capital sign
⠠⠠	double capital sign
⠠⠠	transcriber's note symbol (beginning and ending)
⠠⠠	termination sign

ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS

Braille Print Meaning

⠠⠠	°	degree(s)
⠠⠠	'	single prime meaning foot or feet
⠠	£	pound(s) (sterling)
⠠⠠	'	single prime meaning minute(s) of arc
⠠⠠	¶	paragraph
⠠⠠⠠	"	double prime meaning second(s) of arc

ADDITIONAL SYMBOLS

⠠⠠⠠	§	section
⠠⠠	\$	dollar(s)
⠠⠠	/	fraction line
⠠⠠		end of foot
⠠⠠⠠		Caesura sign
⠠⠠⠠	@	at
⠠⠠⠠	¢	cent(s)
⠠⠠⠠	€	euro(s)
⠠⠠⠠	¥	yen
⠠⠠⠠	&	ampersand
⠠⠠⠠⠠	%	percent
⠠⠠⠠	”	double prime meaning inch(es)
⠠⠠	˘	short or unstressed syllable sign
⠠⠠⠠	©	copyright
⠠⠠⠠	®	registered trademark
⠠⠠⠠	™	trademark
⠠⠠	ˉ	long or stressed syllable sign
⠠⠠⠠	#	crosshatch (commonly means “number” or “pounds”)
⠠⠠⠠	/	slash

ONE-CELL WHOLE-WORD AND PART-WORD SIGNS

Sign	Meaning	Sign	Meaning	Sign	Meaning
∴	but	∴	very	∴	ow
∴	can	∴	will	∴	ea
∴	do	∴	it	∴	be * bb
∴	every	∴	you	∴	con cc
∴	from	∴	as	∴	dis dd
∴	go	∴	and *	∴	en enough
∴	have	∴	for *	∴	to ff
∴	just	∴	of *	∴	were gg
∴	knowledge	∴	the *	∴	his
∴	like	∴	with *	∴	in *
∴	more	∴	ch child	∴∴	into
∴	not	∴	gh	∴	was by
∴	people	∴	sh shall	∴	st still
∴	quite	∴	th this	∴	ing
∴	rather	∴	wh which	∴	ble
∴	so	∴	ed	∴	ar
∴	that	∴	er	∴	com
∴	us	∴	ou out		

* These are used as both one-cell whole-word and part-word signs.

TWO-CELL CONTRACTIONS

	Initial-letter Contractions Preceded by dot(s)			Final-letter Contractions Preceded by dot(s)		
Sign	5 ∴	4-5 ∴	4-5-6 ∴	4-6 ∴	5-6 ∴	6 ∴
∴	—	—	cannot	—	—	—
∴	day	—	—	ound	—	—
∴	ever	—	—	ance	ence	—
∴	father	—	—	—	—	—
∴	—	—	—	—	ong	—
∴	here	—	had	—	—	—
∴	know	—	—	—	—	—
∴	lord	—	—	—	ful	—
∴	mother	—	many	—	—	—
∴	name	—	—	sion	tion	ation
∴	one	—	—	—	—	—
∴	part	—	—	—	—	—
∴	question	—	—	—	—	—
∴	right	—	—	—	—	—
∴	some	—	spirit	less	ness	—
∴	time	—	—	ount	ment	—
∴	under	upon	—	—	—	—
∴	work	word	world	—	—	—
∴	young	—	—	—	ity	ally

TWO-CELL CONTRACTIONS

	Initial-letter Contractions Preceded by dot(s)			Final-letter Contractions Preceded by dot(s)		
Sign	5 ⠠	4-5 ⠠	4-5-6 ⠠	4-6 ⠠	5-6 ⠠	6 ⠠
⠠	there	these	their	—	—	—
⠠	character	—	—	—	—	—
⠠	through	those	—	—	—	—
⠠	where	whose	—	—	—	—
⠠	ought	—	—	—	—	—

SHORT-FORM WORDS

⠠⠠	about	⠠⠠	also
⠠⠠⠠	above	⠠⠠⠠	although
⠠⠠	according	⠠⠠⠠	altogether
⠠⠠⠠	across	⠠⠠⠠	always
⠠⠠	after	⠠⠠	because
⠠⠠⠠	afternoon	⠠⠠	before
⠠⠠⠠	afterward	⠠⠠	behind
⠠⠠	again	⠠⠠	below
⠠⠠⠠	against	⠠⠠	beneath
⠠⠠⠠	almost	⠠⠠	beside
⠠⠠⠠	already	⠠⠠	between

SHORT-FORM WORDS

⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠎	beyond	⠠⠊⠠⠞	its
⠠⠃⠠⠇	blind	⠠⠊⠠⠞⠠⠎	itself
⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠃⠠⠇	braille	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	letter
⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠃⠠⠇	children	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	little
⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠃⠠⠇	conceive	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	much
⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠃⠠⠇	conceiving	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	must
⠠⠃⠠⠇	could	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	myself
⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠃⠠⠇	deceive	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	necessary
⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠃⠠⠇	deceiving	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	neither
⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠃⠠⠇	declare	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	o'clock
⠠⠃⠠⠇⠠⠃⠠⠇	declaring	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	oneself
⠠⠃⠠⠇	either	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	ourselves
⠠⠃⠠⠇	first	⠠⠇⠠⠞	paid
⠠⠃⠠⠇	friend	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	perceive
⠠⠃⠠⠇	good	⠠⠇⠠⠞⠠⠎	perceiving
⠠⠃⠠⠇	great	⠠⠇⠠⠞	perhaps
⠠⠃⠠⠇	herself	⠠⠇⠠⠞	quick
⠠⠃⠠⠇	him	⠠⠇⠠⠞	receive
⠠⠃⠠⠇	himself	⠠⠇⠠⠞	receiving
⠠⠃⠠⠇	immediate	⠠⠇⠠⠞	rejoice

SHORT-FORM WORDS

⠠⠠⠠⠠	rejoicing
⠠⠠	said
⠠⠠	should
⠠⠠	such
⠠⠠⠠⠠	themselves
⠠⠠⠠	thymself
⠠⠠	today, to-day
⠠⠠⠠	together
⠠⠠	tomorrow, to-morrow
⠠⠠	tonight, to-night
⠠⠠	would
⠠⠠	your
⠠⠠⠠	yourself
⠠⠠⠠⠠	yourselves

Rules of Braille

Rule I

PUNCTUATION SIGNS

[page I-1] The slash and line symbols have been moved to the rules in which they are described. Rule VII contains the description of the slash. Rule IX contains the description of the line sign.

Sign	Meaning
⠠	, comma
⠠	; semicolon
⠠	: colon
⠠	. period
⠠	! exclamation point
⠠	() opening and closing parentheses
⠠⠠	[opening bracket
⠠⠠] closing bracket
⠠	" " ? opening double quotation mark; question mark
⠠	" " closing double quotation mark
⠠⠠	` ' opening single quotation mark
⠠⠠	' ' closing single quotation mark
⠠⠠	* asterisk
⠠	' ' apostrophe
⠠⠠⠠	... ellipsis
⠠	- hyphen
⠠⠠	— dash
⠠⠠⠠⠠	_____ double dash
⠠⠠	" " ditto sign

[page I-4] Section 4 no longer includes the requirement to insert an apostrophe in plural abbreviations, numbers or letters where none exists in print. Instead, the section now includes the instruction, “Follow print copy for use of the apostrophe.”

Follow print when transcribing the exclamation “hm.” Use a letter sign before the *h* to prevent confusion with the short form word for “him.” Accordingly, Rule XVI, Section 47.h is modified to reflect this change.

4. (10-07) Apostrophe: ’ ∴

Follow print copy for use of the apostrophe. **Ex:**

’tis ∴∴∴∴

don’t ∴∴∴∴∴

Jones’ ∴∴∴∴∴

1930’s ∴∴∴∴∴∴

1930s ∴∴∴∴∴∴

p’s and q’s ∴∴∴∴ ∴ ∴∴∴∴

ps and qs ∴∴ ∴ ∴∴

Ps and Qs ∴∴∴ ∴ ∴∴∴

h’m ∴∴∴

hm ∴∴∴

hmm ∴∴∴

Rule II

SPECIAL BRAILLE COMPOSITION SIGNS

[page II-1] In the list of symbols at the beginning of Rule II, on the line describing the termination sign, “transcriber’s note symbol” is added.

Sign	Meaning
⠠	non-Latin letter indicator
⠼	number sign
⠸	accent sign; print symbol indicator
⠹	italic sign; (also decimal point)
⠺	double italic sign
⠣	letter sign
⠠	capital sign
⠠⠠	double capital sign
⠠⠠⠠	termination sign; transcriber’s note symbol (beginning and ending)

Rule VI

ABBREVIATIONS

[page VI-2] From Section 27.a(1), the example A&P is deleted. Because of the addition of an ampersand symbol in Rule VIII, Section 31.g, that example no longer illustrates the rule.

(1) In such combinations as in "ATandT" and "NYUers" only the uncapitalized letters of the abbreviations should be contracted. **Ex:**

AFofL ⠠⠋⠋⠠⠋⠠⠋⠠⠋⠠⠋⠠⠋

ATandT ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

NYUers ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Rule VII

NUMBERS AND ROMAN NUMERALS

28. Cardinal Numbers: Numbers are expressed by the letters “a” through “j” preceded by the number sign. ∴

[page VII-1] In Section 28.a, the slash is added to the list of symbols that do not terminate the effect of the number sign.

a. (10-07) The effect of the number sign is not terminated by commas, colons, hyphens, fraction lines, decimals, or slashes. However, after a space or a dash, the number sign must be repeated.

[page VII-2] Section 28.c(1) adds a description of the print representation of fractions. Follow print with respect to use of the slash or fraction line.

c. Simple Fractions:

(1) (10-07) The sign ∴ represents the fraction line.

(a) When the numerator and denominator of a fraction are printed on different levels of type, whether directly above one another or offset diagonally, use the fraction line to represent the horizontal or slanted line that separates them.

$\frac{1}{4}$ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ $\frac{10}{100}$ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴

(b) When the numerator and denominator are printed on the same level of type with a slash between them, use a slash in braille. (However, see the note in Section 28.e(2) about the option to substitute a fraction line.)

10/100 ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴ ∴

[page VII-4] Revised and expanded Section 28.e changes the braille representation of the print slash to a two-cell symbol and contains the direction to follow print for use and spacing. These changes give the reader exact information about the print and maintain the number of cells between numbers at two. The transcriber no longer needs to know whether two numbers are related as parts of a fraction or have some other relationship.

e. Slash: (10-07) The slash has many uses and is given various names including *oblique stroke*, *diagonal*, *solidus*, and *virgule*.

(1) Use ⠄⠄ to represent a slash wherever it appears in print. Follow print spacing. List this symbol on the special symbols page.

and/or ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄

Author / Editor ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄ ⠄⠄ ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄

1st/2nd ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄

pages v/vi ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄ ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄

print/braille ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄

(2) If a slash appears between two numbers, do not repeat the number sign after the slash.

Model 09/52 ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄ ⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄⠄

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Note: For certain publications, an agency, publisher, or transcribing group may elect to substitute the fraction line for the slash in obvious fractions, describing this substitution in a transcriber's note.

Rule VIII

COINAGE, WEIGHTS, MEASURES AND OTHER SPECIAL SYMBOLS

31. When in print a number or letter is preceded or followed by a symbol or abbreviation for coinage, weight, measure, or other special sign, in braille follow the print order, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and spacing for the abbreviation or the corresponding braille symbol.

[page VIII-2] In Section 31.b, the two symbols represented by crosshatch (“number” and “pounds”) are removed from the list. A new crosshatch symbol is provided in Section 31.g. Added terms, “prime” and “double prime,” clarify the meanings of the braille equivalent symbols for inch(es), foot or feet, minutes (of arc), and seconds (of arc). The term “of arc” takes the place of “angular.”

b. (10-07) Print Symbols:

Print	Braille	Meaning
¢	⠠⠠	cent(s)
°	⠠⠠⠠	degree(s)
\$	⠠	dollar(s)
€	⠠⠠	euro(s)
'	⠠⠠⠠	single prime meaning foot or feet
”	⠠⠠	double prime meaning inch(es)
'	⠠⠠⠠	single prime meaning minute(s) of arc
¶	⠠⠠	paragraph
%	⠠⠠⠠	percent
£	⠠	pound(s) (sterling)
”	⠠⠠⠠	double prime meaning second(s) of arc
§	⠠⠠	section
¥	⠠⠠	yen

(c) Insert a letter sign before any letter which follows a braille equivalent.

98°F ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

§d ⠠⠠⠠⠠

¶k ⠠⠠⠠⠠

(2) [*No changes made to this section.*]

c. **Non-Latin Letters:** [*No changes made to this section.*]

[page VIII-4] The wording of Section 31.d is revised and the examples showing ampersand, at sign, and crosshatch have been deleted because these print symbols now have braille equivalents. The content and intent of this section is unchanged except for the removal of those symbols.

d. (10-07) In texts where it is required to show that a special symbol is used for degrees, feet, minutes of arc, paragraph, seconds of arc, or section, place dot 4 ⠠ before the braille symbol or letter combination. Such usage should be employed only when it is necessary to show the exact symbol, such as in typewriting instruction manuals or other technical works. List this symbol on the special symbols page. (See App. A. 9.) **Ex:**

3° ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

[page VIII-5] In Section 31.f, there is no change except that the print happy face symbol has replaced the copyright symbol as an example of a symbol with no braille counterpart. Copyright now has its own braille symbol, described in §31.g.

f. (10-07) The appropriate word should be substituted for any special symbol for which no provision has been made in this code such as “happy face” for “☺.”

[page VIII-5] Six symbols are added to the literary code in the new Section 31.g. These symbols are available to be used to represent the equivalent print symbols wherever they occur.

g. (10-07) Additional Symbols:

Print Braille Meaning

&	⠠⠠	ampersand
@	⠠⠠	at
©	⠠⠠	copyright
®	⠠⠠	registered trademark
™	⠠⠠	trademark
#	⠠⠠	crosshatch (commonly means “number” or “pounds”)

(1) Use the list of braille equivalents shown in §31.g above. Follow print spacing and punctuation. List these symbols on the special symbols page. (See App. A. 9.)

(2) A letter sign is not required before a single letter when the letter appears immediately before or immediately after one of these symbols.

(3) These symbols terminate the effect of the double capital sign. Ex:

AT&T ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

The B & O Railroad

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

The B&O Railroad

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

&c (etc) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

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#7 ⠠⠠⠠⠠

Ed carried the 100# bag.

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Rule XVI

SHORT-FORM WORDS

[page XVI-6] In Section 47.h, the instruction to insert an apostrophe between the *h* and *m* of the print exclamation *hm!* is removed.

h. (10-07) In the transcription of the print expressions “h’m” and “hm!” follow print for use or nonuse of the apostrophe. Use the letter sign to prevent confusion between the expression “hm” and the short-form word, “him.” **Ex:**

H’m ⠠⠢⠠⠍

Hm ⠠⠢⠠⠍

h’m ⠠⠢⠠⠍

hm ⠠⠢⠠⠍