# 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
$2 \bullet \bullet$ 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

| $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ | $\because:$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots:$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots:$ | $\vdots$ | $\vdots$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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).


### 1.2 Punctuation: Comma

$\therefore \quad$, 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

Transcribe the following exercise into print.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ! : : : : : : : : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ! : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : : : : : : : : : : : : }
\end{aligned}
$$

## 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 $a-j$.



stranger transport
2.2 Punctuation: Apostrophe
$\vdots$ ' 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

Transcribe the following exercise into print.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { ! : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : : : : : : } \\
& \text { ! } \\
& \text { : } \\
& \text { ! : : ! : }
\end{aligned}
$$

## 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

## LESSON 3

### 3.1 The Final Six letters of the Alphabet

### 3.2 Capitals Mode: Capitalized Letter Indicator,

 CapitalizedWord Indicator and Termination
3.3 Punctuation: Period or Dot, Ellipsis

### 3.1 The Final Six Letters of the Alphabet

The letters $u, v, x, y$ and $z$ are formed by adding lower dot 6 to the letters $k-o$. The letter $w$ does not fit into the pattern because Louis Braille, who developed the system, was French, and there was no $w$ in the French alphabet.

until

vivid
wrap

xebec

yogourt

zebra

### 3.2 Capitals Mode

Capitalization Indicators
$\vdots \quad$ lower dot 6, capitalized letter indicator
!: : lower dots 6-6, capitalized word indicator
3.2.1 A dot 6 : immediately before a letter indicates that it is capitalized.

3.2.2 Dots 6-6 $\vdots \vdots$ immediately before a word, or before two or more letters, indicates that all letters are capitalized.

3.2.3 The effect of the capitalized word indicator is terminated by a space, by punctuation, or by any other non-alphabetic braille character.


### 3.3 Punctuation: Period or Dot, Ellipsis

:: $\quad$ period or dot dots 256
:: :: :: ... ellipsis dots 256-256-256
3.3.1 In braille the period is spaced as in print. One blank cell is left between words.


Peter's new car is dark blue.
3.3.2 The ellipsis is usually three or more dots. It follows print for spacing and number of dots.


Let's hurry ... we're late.

quickly. ... home again.

## EXERCISE 3

Transcribe the following exercise into print.


## 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.


### 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.


### 4.3 Grade 1 Indicator

: dots 56

The grade 1 indicator :: sets grade 1 mode. It is used before any of the lowercase letters $a-j$ following a number to avoid it being misread as a number.


5 ft .

2.b

model 107d

### 4.4 Punctuation: Question Mark, Colon, Semicolon

:. ? dots 236 question mark
:: : dots 25 colon
: ; dots 23 semicolon

The punctuation marks, question mark :i, colon $\because:$ and semicolon :: are used as in print.

Is he 5 or 6 this year?

My 3 favourites: peach; kiwi; : : ! : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :
raspberry.

### 4.5 Paragraph

Generally, the braille line is indented to cell 3 to indicate the start of a paragraph. Carryover lines begin in cell 1. Paragraphs follow each other without an intervening blank line.

She chooses a TVO program

for the children at 5.30PM.
:
Many other networks have

too much violence.

## EXERCISE 4

Transcribe the following exercise into print.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : : : : : : : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : : : : : : : : : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : } \\
& \text { ! }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

## 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 .857 paint; 2nd get oil
changed, top up 10.5 gal 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.

## LESSON 5

5.1 Currency Signs: Cent Sign, Dollar Sign 5.2 Symbols: Ampersand, At Sign, Percent Sign
5.3 Punctuation: Hyphen, Exclamation Mark, Slash

### 5.1 Currency Signs: Cent Sign, Dollar Sign

$\because: \square \quad$ dots 4-14
$\therefore: \quad \$$ dots 4-234

The order and spacing of the cent $:!:$ and dollar : : : signs follow print.


Can\$1bn per annum

### 5.2 Symbols: Ampersand, At Sign, Percent Sign

### 5.2.1 Ampersand

$\therefore: \quad$ \& dots 4-12346

The order and spacing of the ampersand $: \because: 0$ is the same as in print.

### 5.2.2 At Sign, Percent Sign

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \because: @ \text { dots 4-1 } \\
& \vdots: \vdots \% \text { dots 46-356 }
\end{aligned}
$$

The order and spacing of the at sign : : and the percent sign ::: follow print.

apples @ \$2.95 Kilo


Sale price: 40\% off.

### 5.3 Punctuation : Hyphen, Exclamation Mark, Slash

$$
\because \quad \text { - dots } 36
$$

:! ! dots 235
: :
The order and spacing of the hyphen :.:, exclamation mark :: and slash :: : follow print.


## EXERCISE 5

Transcribe the following exercise into print.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

## 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 $\$ U S$ 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!

## LESSON 6

### 6.1 Punctuation: Parentheses, Quotation Marks, Dash, Underscore

### 6.2 Numeric Mode: Numeric Space

### 6.3 Electronic Addresses, Line Continuation Indicator

### 6.1 Punctuation: Parentheses, Quotation Marks, Dash, Underscore

### 6.1.1 Parentheses

: : ( dots 5-126 opening parenthesis
: : ) dots 5-345 closing parenthesis

The two-cell opening $:!:$ and closing $: \vdots$ parentheses follow print spacing.

(See Xavier later on.)

### 6.1.2 Quotation Marks



### 6.1.3 Dash

$\because \quad$ - dots 6-36

The dash $\vdots!$ follows print spacing. It may be spaced or unspaced within a text.


We want-we need-more time!


Buy 6 - 3 for each driver.

### 6.1.4 Underscore (Low Line)

$$
\because \quad-\quad \text { dots 46-36 }
$$

One underscore (low line) :: :. is used for each print dash below the line of type to indicate a blank to be filled in.


The low line may also be used in an e-mail address.

greta_klein@gmail.com

### 6.2 Numeric Mode: Numeric Space

$\because \quad \operatorname{dot} 5$
When a single number, such as a telephone number, is printed with spaces, dot 5 :: is used to represent the space and the numeric indicator is not repeated.
$4164862500 \quad 18002685637$


ISBN: 9780980706468

### 6.3 Electronic Addresses, Line Continuation Indicator, Line Continuation Indicator With Space

6.3.1 Electronic addresses include email addresses, websites and filenames. When an electronic address is divided because it will not fit on one braille line, the line continuation indicator $\because$ is used after the last character on the braille line. The division is made after punctuation or a symbol.


Is http://www/234.fgo.org./rosa/wb/curric.txt legit?
6.3.2 When the electronic address is divided at a space, the line continuation indicator with space : $:!$ is used.


## EXERCISE 6

Transcribe the following exercise into print.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : } \\
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { : }
\end{aligned}
$$

## EXERCISE 6 - ANSWERS

If you join Twitter, you'll
need user ID _ \& PASSWORD
_ to keep up with GOSSIP!
"Phone 1866659 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
$\$ 6.45$ 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

$\therefore \quad$ simple numeric fraction line, e.g. :0: : : $1 / 2$
$\therefore: \quad$ euro sign $€$
: : pound sterling $£$
$\therefore: \quad$ yen sign (yuan sign) $¥$
$\therefore$ : solidus (forward slash) overlay on following letter, e.g. : : : ø $\varnothing$
: : $\quad$ opening angle bracket, less-than <
$\therefore$ : caret $\wedge$
$\because \quad$ tilde (swung dash) ~
: : closing angle bracket, greater-than >
: :: :: dagger, dagger as a cross $\dagger$
:: copyright sign ©
::: degree sign ${ }^{\circ}$
:: paragraph sign $\|$
: : registered sign $\circledR$
:: section sign §
::: trademark sign ${ }^{\text {M }}$
: :: female sign (Venus) +
: :: male sign (Mars) $\widehat{\jmath}$
::: cedilla below following letter, e.g. ::::: c
$: \vdots$ : grave accent above following letter, e.g. : : : : à à
: : : circumflex above following letter, e.g. : : : : : o o
: : : : ring (circle) above following letter, e.g. : : : : : : a
:: :: tilde above following letter, e.g. : : :: : : n n
: : : dieresis (umlaut) above following letter, e.g. : : : : : ü
: : : acute accent above following letter, e.g. : : : : : é
:: : : caron (hacek, wedge) above following letter,
e.g. : : : :
: :: :: inverted exclamation mark i
: : : : : inverted question mark ¿
$:!:$ reverse solidus (backslash) \}
: : : : opening curly bracket (brace bracket) \{
:: :: number sign (crosshatch, hash, pound sign) \#
:: :: bullet •
: : : c closing curly bracket (brace bracket) \}
:\%: multiplication dot •
: :: plus +
:: :: equals =
: :: times (multiplication cross) $\times$
:! asterisk *
$\because \vdots$ divided by $\div$
$\because: \vdots$ minus (when distinguished from a hyphen) -
: : : guide dots (with space before and after)
$\vdots: \quad$ opening square bracket [
: : : closing square bracket ]
!: :: opening single quotation mark ${ }^{`}$
!: :! closing single quotation mark'

# CAPITALIZATION <br> (See Rules Section 8) 

capital letter indicator, e.g. :!: ::
B. Ryan
capitals word indicator, e.g.
FIELD-TEST
capitals passage indicator and capitals terminator, e.g.

PLEASE KEEP OFF THE GRASS

## TYPEFORMS

(See Rules Section 9)
: : : italic symbol indicator, e.g. :: : :: : 7

file folder
::: italic passage indicator and

here and now
: : $: \quad$ boldface symbol indicator, e.g. : : : : $\quad$ I
: : b boldface word indicator, e.g. : : : : : : : : : : : sci-fi
: :: boldface passage indicator and
: : b boldface terminator, e.g. : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :

## You can do it!

:: underlined symbol indicator, e.g. : : : : : : : : : 83
: :: underlined word indicator, e.g. :0:: : : : : : Day
::: underlined passage indicator and
: :

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