

ENGLISH BRAILLE AMERICAN EDITION 1994

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 in 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:

1 ●● 4
2 ●● 5
3 ●● 6

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 of dots 1, 2, 4, 5.

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

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

DEFINITION OF BRAILLE

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 braille 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				
⠥	⠺	⠻	⠭	⠽	⠿				

Sign	Meaning
⠠	, comma; non-Latin letter indicator
⠤	; semicolon
⠆	: colon
⠘	. period
⠗	! exclamation point
⠸	() opening and closing parentheses
⠶	[opening bracket
⠶] closing bracket
⠠	“ ” ? opening double quotation mark; question mark
⠠	‘ ’ opening single quotation mark
⠠	* asterisk
⠠	” ” closing double quotation mark
⠠	’ ’ closing single quotation mark
⠠	/ bar; oblique stroke; fraction-line sign
⠠	# number sign
⠠	/ : line sign
⠠	' ' apostrophe
⠠	... ellipsis
⠠	- hyphen

Sign	Meaning
⠄ ⠄	— dash
⠄ ⠄ ⠄ ⠄	braille double dash
⠃	accent sign; print symbol indicator
⠃	italic sign; decimal point
⠃ ⠃	double italic sign
⠃	letter sign
⠃	capital sign
⠃ ⠃	double capital sign
⠃	termination sign
⠃	” " ditto sign

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

Sign	Initial-letter Contractions Preceded by			Final-letter Contractions Preceded by		
	dot 5	dots 4-5	dots 4-5-6	dots 4-6	dots 5-6	dot 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

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

SHORT-FORM WORDS

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

SHORT-FORM WORDS

⠠⠃⠗⠊⠇⠇⠑	braille	⠠⠇⠊⠞⠇⠑	little
⠠⠉⠊⠇⠔⠗⠑⠗⠎	children	⠠⠇⠗⠘	much
⠠⠉⠔⠗⠉⠊⠑⠁⠑	conceive	⠠⠇⠗⠘	must
⠠⠉⠔⠗⠉⠊⠑⠁⠑⠗⠊⠑⠛	conceiving	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	myself
⠠⠉⠔⠗⠉⠊⠑⠁⠑	could	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	necessary
⠠⠉⠔⠗⠉⠊⠑⠁⠑	deceive	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	neither
⠠⠉⠔⠗⠉⠊⠑⠁⠑⠗⠊⠑⠛	deceiving	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	o'clock
⠠⠉⠔⠗⠉⠊⠑⠁⠑	declare	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	oneself
⠠⠉⠔⠗⠉⠊⠑⠁⠑⠗⠊⠑⠛	declaring	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	ourselves
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	either	⠠⠇⠗⠘	paid
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	first	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	perceive
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	friend	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	perceiving
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	good	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	perhaps
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	great	⠠⠇⠗⠘	quick
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	herself	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	receive
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	him	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	receiving
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	himself	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	rejoice
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	immediate	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	rejoicing
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	its	⠠⠇⠗⠘	said
⠠⠑⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗	itself	⠠⠇⠗⠘⠠⠇⠗⠘	should
⠠⠇⠊⠞⠞⠑⠗	letter	⠠⠇⠗⠘	such

SHORT-FORM WORDS



themselves



thyself



today, to-day



together



tomorrow, to-morrow



tonight, to-night



would



your



yourself



yourselves

