

RULE X — GENERAL USE OF CONTRACTIONS

34. General Rules Governing Part-Word Contractions: Contractions forming parts of words should not be used where they would obscure the recognition or pronunciation of a word.

a. Contractions may be used:

(1) Where the letters of the contraction are in the same syllable. **Ex:**

standing ⠠⠎⠞⠁⠝⠇⠊⠝⠎

cringing ⠠⠕⠕⠗⠊⠝⠎

withered ⠠⠙⠊⠞⠏⠑⠗

Wright ⠠⠙⠗⠊⠎

inform ⠠⠊⠝⠋⠕⠗

psst ⠠⠏⠎⠎

shhhh ⠠⠎⠏⠏⠏

benevolent ⠠⠃⠑⠝⠑⠋⠗⠊⠞

(2) Contractions may be used where the letters of the contraction would overlap a minor and/or incidental syllable division. **Ex:**

handle ⠠⠏⠏⠏⠞⠏

sofa ⠠⠎⠔⠏

tiny ⠠⠞⠊⠎

Reno ⠠⠗⠑⠝

astrigent ⠠⠁⠎⠞⠗⠊⠎

Vanderbilt ⠠⠙⠁⠝⠔⠑⠗⠊⠞

Kingston ⠠⠕⠗⠊⠝

Seattle ⠠⠎⠑⠞⠞⠏

Eden ⠠⠑⠔⠎

Minneapolis ⠠⠓⠊⠝⠏⠏⠑⠗

(3) A contraction must not be used where a primary syllable division occurs between the prefix and the root of a word. (See §34.c. below.) **Ex:**

reduce ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

edict ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

benediction ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

erupt ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

profess ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

deduce ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

predict ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

erect ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

malediction ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

profound ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Benedict ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(4) A contraction must not be used where base words are joined to form an unhyphenated compound word. **Ex:**

sweetheart ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

stronghold ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

blowhard ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

painstaking ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Jamestown ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

stateroom ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

pineapple ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

kettledrum ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Bighorn ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(5) A contraction must not be used where the use of contractions would disturb the pronunciation of a digraph or trigraph (two or more letters pronounced as one sound). **Ex:**

sphere ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ Boone ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

hoity-toity ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

tableau ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(6) A contraction must not be used where two adjoining consonants are pronounced separately. **Ex:**

shanghaied ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

isinglass ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ towhee ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

nightingale ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ dinghy ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

fiance ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ meningitis ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

lingerie ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ Gingold ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Stalingrad ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Vandyke ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ Wingate ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(7) A contraction must not be used where the use of a contraction would cause difficulty in pronunciation. **Ex:**

Airedale ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

battledore ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

tweedledum ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

oleaginous ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

skedaddle ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

genealogy ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

impermeable ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

c. General Exception: Contractions should be used in such easily read words as:

around ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ arise ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ arose ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

acknowledge ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

baroness ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ governess ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

drought ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ doughty ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

d. Contractions should be used in entry words found in the dictionary. In general literature, contractions should be used in common terms for a particular subject, such as botany, medicine, etc., when they are listed in a glossary of the book being transcribed or when they are explained in the text as they are originally presented. Similarly, contractions should be used in coined words in science fiction.

- e. Part-word contractions should be used rather liberally in dialect. **Ex:**

silance (silence) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

depity (deputy) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

bofe (both) ⠠⠠⠠

thet (that) ⠠⠠⠠

impedent (impudent) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

huccom (how come) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

must er (must have, must of) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

'stracted (distracted) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

- (1) When "t" is replaced by "th" followed by "e," the "th" contraction should be used.

Ex:

matther (matter) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

sisther (sister) ⠠⠠⠠⠠

(2) When "you're" is represented in print by "your," the short-form word must not be used, since it does not retain its original meaning.

35. Preferred Contractions: Unless their use violates any of the principles of the Rules of English Braille, where there is more than one possible choice in the use of contractions, the selection should be made on the following bases:

a. Preference should be given to the contractions which save the greatest amount of space. **Ex:**

Leander ("and" not "ea") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

wither ("with" not "the") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

oneness ("one" and "ness" not "en") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

thence ("th" not "the") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

bubble ("ble" not "bb") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

b. One-cell contractions should be used in preference to two-cell contractions as parts of words. **Ex:**

prisoner ("er" not "one") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

opponent ("en" not "one") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

stoned ("ed" not "one") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

adhered ("ed" not "here") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

haddock ("dd" not "had") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Exception: The contraction for "ence" should be used before the letters "d" or "r." **Ex:**

commenced (not "en" "ed") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

silencer (not "en" "er") ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

c. Where a choice must be made between two consecutive contractions in order to avoid misspelling, preference should be given to the contraction which more nearly approximates correct pronunciation. **Ex:**

wherever ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠

dispirited ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠

coherence ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠