

Unified English Braille (UEB): Summary of changes for ordinary braille

Contents

1. Introduction	1
2. Contractions	2
3. Capitals	4
4. Italics, bold and underline.....	4
5. Quotation marks	5
6. Other common signs	6
7. Basic maths signs	7
8. Phone and other grouped numbers	8
9. Grade 1 indicator.....	8
10. Spelt-out and stammered words.....	9
11. Unit abbreviations.....	9
12. Superscripts and subscripts	10
13. Dates and times of day.....	10
14. Email and web addresses	11
15. Accents	11
16. Transcriber's note indicators.....	12
17. Uncontracted braille	12

1. Introduction

This document is a short summary of the changes to the braille rules for ordinary text. It does not provide a full statement of the rules, nor a full list of the signs which UEB provides. For this, reference should be made to *The Rules of Unified English Braille*, produced by and available from ICEB (www.iceb.org). UEB doesn't deal with braille layout, and so only braille coding rules are affected.

2. Contractions

a. Deletions

The following contractions are no longer used:

ble, com, dd, ation, ally, o'clock, to, into, by

E.g. addition table ⠠⠁⠇⠇⠊⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Although the contraction ation may not be used, the contraction tion may still be used in words containing that string of letters.

E.g. station ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

"to", "into" and "by" are no longer brailled close up to the following word. Although the contraction for the word "into" may no longer be used, the contraction for in may still be used within it.

E.g. into space ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

b. Sequencing

The wordsigns and for of the with are still allowed, but have to be spaced from each other and from the word "a".

E.g. for the time being ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

c. Choice of contractions

When the string "ence" is followed by "a", "d", "n" or "r", the contraction ence is now used, rather than the single cell contractions.

E.g. silencer ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

experienced ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

d. Lower wordsigns

Lower wordsigns such as in, be and his may be used in contact with capital indicators or terminators even if the string does not include an upper sign.

E.g. Be Calm! ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

e. The ea contraction

The ea contraction is now permissible in words like borealis, genealogy, Neapolitan; and as part of diphthongs as in Judaean and Liliaceae.

f. With the oblique stroke

The oblique stroke is not treated as a word boundary for some of the contraction rules, which results in the following contractions not being used in contact with it:

- (a) Shortforms and alphabetic wordsigns (called simple upper wordsigns in SEB, e.g. b – but, c – can).
- (b) The lower groupsigns be, con and dis.

E.g. above/below ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

quite/very ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

[This relates to the important definition of "standing alone" in UEB, upon which some of the rules on the use of contractions depend. For the same reason the exclusions of (a) also apply to words in email and web addresses; as does (b) if the word is not at the very start of the address. An example of this is shown under Email and Web Addresses later in this document. Nevertheless, for the most

commercial at @ ⠠⠗⠗⠗

right arrow → ⠠⠗⠗⠗

UEB is designed so that all the signs are capable of being spaced or unspaced in any combination without ambiguity, so arbitrary strings of letters and other signs can be brailled directly as shown in print.

E.g. *x**% ⠠⠗⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗

7. Basic maths signs

The arithmetical signs are similar to SEB, except that dot 5 is used as a prefix instead of dots 56:

plus + ⠠⠗⠗

minus - ⠠⠗⠗

times × ⠠⠗⠗

divided ÷ ⠠⠗⠗

equals = ⠠⠗⠗

These signs can be spaced or unspaced, but a common convention is to space the equals sign, and to leave the others unspaced.

E.g. 2 + 6 = 8 ⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗⠠⠗⠗

Fractions

Simple numeric fractions use upper numbers for both numerator and denominator, separated by a "fraction line sign", dots 34.

UKAAF contact details

**UKAAF
PO Box 127
Cwmbrân
NP44 9BQ**

**Tel: 0845 60 85223
Fax: 0845 60 85224
Email: enquiries@ukaaf.org
Web: www.ukaaf.org**

UKAAF registered address

**UKAAF
c/o Pia
Victoria Street
Cwmbrân
NP44 3YT**

**President: Lord Low of Dalston CBE
Registered charity number: 1126966
Registered as a company in England and Wales number: 6748900**