



**Overview of Changes
from Current Literary Braille
to Unified English Braille**

**Authored by
Braille Authority of North America**

March 2013

www.brailleauthority.org

Rather than keep this unwieldy construction or make a special rule for the capitalization of "o'clock", the contraction itself was eliminated.

Changed Punctuation and Other Symbols

The dot formations of these symbols will be different from the ones used in current literary braille. They were changed for various reasons, but most of the changes are designed so that these symbols do not require specific spacing rules as they currently do.

dollar	\$	⠠⠠⠠
percent	%	⠠⠠⠠
asterisk	*	⠠⠠⠠
degree	°	⠠⠠⠠
single closing quotation mark	'	⠠⠠⠠
dash	—	⠠⠠⠠
long dash	---	⠠⠠⠠⠠
ellipsis	...	⠠⠠⠠⠠
parentheses, opening and closing	()	⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠
bracket, square, opening and closing	[]	⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠
brace (curly brackets), opening and closing	{ }	⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠
paragraph	¶	⠠⠠⠠
section	§	⠠⠠⠠
transcriber's note, opening and closing		⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠

Note that the "at" sign will be ⠠⠠⠠ as it is in current literary braille, but can be used anywhere, including email addresses. Also, there is no longer a general termination indicator; termination of capitals and other effects is discussed later in this document.

TIPS FOR LEARNING AND REMEMBERING SOME SYMBOLS AND INDICATORS

Underline, Bold, and Italics Indicators

These indicators have prefixes as well as roots. The prefix indicates the type of attribute, and the root indicates how far it extends.

For the “begin” indicators, the prefixes are easy to remember:

Italics: dots 46, just like the current italics

Underline: dots 456, like the underscore in computer braille code

Bold: dots 45—a little like a letter b (b for bold) but on the other side of the cell.

The roots are the same for these three:

Letter: dots 23 (looks a little like a letter sign but on the other side of the cell)

Word: dot 2

Passage, dots 2345

	Prefix	Symbol (Root)	Word (Root)	Passage (Root)	Passage end (Root)
italic	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
bold	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
underline	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠
grade 1	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠	⠠

Generally only the passage indicators need an “end” indicator; the prefixes for the endings are the same as for the beginning, and the root is dot 3.

The Accents (modifiers)

The root for the umlaut ⠠⠠ looks like two dots across, like the umlaut in print.

Acute and grave accents also slant the same way in braille as they do in print.

“Cedilla below” and “tilde above” are based on the current representations of these symbols used in foreign language contexts.

Where to Learn More

Comprehensive code books and symbols lists for UEB are available at www.iceb.org

Samples of material using UEB are available from www.brailleauthority.org

(Last updated March 11, 2013)