

## Braille

Braille is a writing system that enables blind and partially sighted people to read and write through touch. The Braille writing system was invented by Louis Braille (1809-1852), a French teacher of the blind. It consists of patterns of raised dots arranged in cells of up to six dots in a 3 x 2 configuration. Each cell represents a letter, numeral or punctuation mark. Some frequently used words and letter combinations also have their own single cell patterns.

There are three basic, yet different, versions of Braille:

- \* Grade 1, which consists of the 26 standard letters of the alphabet and punctuation. People who are first starting to read Braille only use it.
- \* Grade 2, which consist of the 26 standard letters of the alphabet, punctuation and contractions. The contractions are employed to save space because a Braille page cannot fit as much text as a standard printed page. Books, signs in public places, menus, and most other Braille materials are written in Grade 2 Braille.
- \* Grade 3, which is used only in personal letters, diaries, and notes. It is a kind of shorthand, with entire words shortened to a few letters.

Braille has been adapted to write many different languages, including Chinese, and is also used for musical and mathematical notation.

### Basic letters

•	⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤	⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩	⠪	⠫	⠬
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	

### Accented letters

⠠⠠	⠠⠡	⠠⠢	⠠⠣	⠠⠥	⠠⠤	⠠⠦	⠠⠧	⠠⠩	⠠⠫
à	â	ä/æ	è	é	ê	ë	ì	î	
⠠⠮	⠠⠯	⠠⠰	⠠⠲	⠠⠳	⠠⠴	⠠⠵	⠠⠶	⠠⠷	
ï	ò	ô	ö/œ	ù	û	ü	ç		

### Words and abbreviations

•	⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
a	but	can	do	every	from	go	have	just	knowledge	like	more	not
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
people	quite	rather	so	that	us	very	will	it	you	as	and	for
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
of	the	with	child/ch	gh	shall/sh	this/th	which/wh	ed	er	out/ou	ow	bb
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠					
cc	dd	en	gg; were	in	st	ing	ar					

### Punctuation

•	⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
,	;	:	.	!	()	? “	*	”	,	-	

### Numerals

•	⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0

### Special signs

⠠	⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
letter sign	capital sign	numeral sign	numerical index sign	literal index	italic sign