



Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired
Outreach Programs

www.tsbvi.edu | 512-454-8631 | 1100 W. 45th St. | Austin, TX 78756

Getting Started with the UEB Code

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3:00-4:00 PM

Presented by

Jeri Cleveland, Curriculum Instructor
clevelandj@tsbvi.edu

Sue Mattson, Braille Production Coordinator
mattsons@tsbvi.edu

Developed for

Texas School for the Blind & Visually Impaired

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Getting Started with the Unified English Braille Code (UEB)

Presented by
Sue Mattson and Jeri Cleveland
With Pat Van Geem

History

- Louis Braille's Birthday, January 4, 1809
- During the early 1900's no standardized code for years
- Unified code development began 1991
- Unified English Braille Code adopted November 2012
- Official implementation January 4, 2016

A New Course for the Future

- November 2, 2012, the Braille Authority of North America voted to adopt the Unified English Braille Code (UEB) in the U.S.
- UEB will replace our current literary code (English Braille American Edition)
- Nemeth Braille Code retained in U.S. for math and science.

What We Need to Know

- UEB is a NEW code!
- It is not EBAE with a few adjustments.
- There is a logic to this code.
- Don't compare it to the old; learning will require study and practice for all of us.
- Yes, we will make mistakes as we learn.

Six Foundational Principles

1. It is based on the 6-dot cell.
2. Includes Grade 1 and Grade 2.
3. Readable by beginning and fluent readers.
4. It was designed to be computable.
5. It was developed as a unified code that included literary, mathematics, and computer braille codes.
6. All English Braille Codes were considered in its development (ICEB, 2013).

Features

- Integrates well with technology.
- Computer translation and braille displays.
- Braille follows print more closely.
- This means better accessibility to print.
- More frequent use of indicators.
- Mode changes.

Say Good-bye

The following contractions are not used in UEB:

to	into	by
⠠⠏⠗	⠠⠊⠒⠠⠏⠗	⠠⠃⠽
ble	com	dd
⠠⠃⠇⠑	⠠⠒⠔⠗	⠠⠔⠔
ation	ally	o'clock
⠠⠁⠞⠊⠒⠊⠒⠊⠒⠊	⠠⠁⠇⠇⠽	⠠⠔⠒⠠⠒⠠⠒⠠⠒⠠⠒⠠⠒⠠⠒

Figure 1 Table showing contractions and UEB: to, into, by, ble, com, dd, ation, ally, and o'clock.

Spacing

No cuddling allowed in UEB!

Space between "a, and, for, of, the," and "with"



Figure 2 Image of astronaut floating in outer space.

Crossing the Great Divide

UEB allows more contraction use across syllables.

acreage	· ¨ ·: ·: ·:
boredom	: :·: ·: ·: ·:
lioness	: · ·: ·:
ebbing	·: ·:
teatime	·: ·: ·:

Figure 3 Example of words and UEB code: acreage, boredom, lioness, ebbing, teatime.



Figure 4 Photo of the mountain peaks along the Great Divide taken by Nomadic Lass, used with permission.

New for Shortform Words

- Shortform words can be used as parts of longer words, as long as they meet specified conditions.
- Just A Few Examples:

friendly	¨: ·: ·: ·:	aboveboard	· : :·: ·: ·:
quicker	·: ·: ·:	grandchildren	·: ·: ·: ·: ·:
repaid	·: ·: ·: ·:	firstaid	·: ·: ·: ·:

Figure 5 Picture showing word and UEB braille: friendly, quicker, rapaid, aboveboard, grandchildren, firstaid.

Vocabulary

Wordsigns

- Letter combinations that can represent a whole word.

Groupsigns

- Letter combinations that when joined to other letters take a groupsign meaning.

Strong groupsigns or wordsigns

- Contractions (not including alphabetic wordsigns) that contain dots in both the top and bottom rows and in both left and right column of braille cell.

Indicators:

- change the meaning of the following braille character or change an aspect of the following text.

Modes:

- Indicators are also used to set mode changes, i.e. from grade 2 to grade 1.

Bridging:

- UEB allows for a more relaxed use of contractions; you will see some "bridging" between syllables

Review

- It is OK to be sad about leaving EBAE behind.
- Remember we are all in this together.
- Relax we are all going to make mistakes and our students will catch us!
- Learn the new vocabulary that goes with the code; learn to speak UEB.
- Regular study and practice.
- Don't get mentally frustrated with the areas of implementation and decision-making that belong to other stakeholders.
- Develop a personal plan of study.
- Become familiar with the resources listed and look for others.

Concerns Are Being Addressed

- Statewide Assessments
- Textbooks
- Training for TVIs and Transcribers

Our Plan

- We have produced some recreational reading material in UEB for our library and it is available now.
- We will begin training teachers and staff in January, 2015.
- We will have a braille celebration in January 2016.

Carpe Diem

- Seize the Day!
- See this as an opportunity to improve your braille reading and teaching skills.
- Become certified in UEB.

- Improve your production skills.

Resources

Manuals and Courses

- The Rules of Unified English Braille on the International Council on English Braille <http://www.iceb.org/ueb>
- CNIB Transcriber's UEB Course <http://www.cnib.ca/en/living/braille/Pages/Transcribers-UEB-Course.aspx>
- The Australian Braille Authority Training Manual (2013) <http://brailleaustralia.org/unified-english-braille/unified-english-braille-australian-training-manual-2013/>
- The Australian UEB Online training program <http://uebonline.org/>
- The Braille Authority of North America's resources and examples <http://www.brailleauthority.org/ueb.html>

References

- ICEB, 2013. The Rules of Unified English Braille. Simpson, C. Ed.

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Figure 6 TSBVI logo.



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Figure 7 IDEAs that Work logo and disclaimer.