

BRAILLE GERMAN CODE

This document gives the code used in the United Kingdom for transcribing text in German.

Modified Vowels

⠠ ä
⠠ ö
⠠ ü

Contractions for Letter Groups

(These may be used for whole words where appropriate.)

⠠ au	⠠ eu
⠠ äü	⠠ ie
⠠ ch	⠠ in
⠠ ei	⠠ sch
⠠ ein	⠠ st
⠠ er	⠠ ß (Gothic ss or sz sign)

Word Signs

⠠ das	⠠ und
⠠ man	⠠ von
⠠ nicht	⠠ zu

Punctuation

As in Standard English Braille, except:

Query	⠠
Capital	⠠

Italic	⠠
Double italic	⠠⠠
Asterisk	⠠
Abbreviation point	⠠

INSTRUCTIONS ON THE USE OF THE GERMAN CODE

The capital sign and the italic sign must *never* appear together before a word – use the italic (or double italic sign) only.

All capitals should be shown in German, unless a word or letter is already preceded by an italic or double italic sign.

Where the title of a book, section or chapter etc., which is to be centred, is printed all in block capitals, the capital sign should only be used in braille before the first word of the title and before any of the other words which would normally be written with initial capitals.

Initial letters standing instead of words, such as DDR, should each be preceded by a capital sign.

When the letters of a word are widely spaced in print for emphasis, italics should be used in braille.

When an abbreviation occurs at the end of a sentence, both the abbreviation point and the full stop should be used in braille.

When the full stop takes the place of an ordinal ending, as in 2. Weltkrieg or 19. Januar, it should be brailled as a full stop and not as an abbreviation point.

The letter sign is never used in German code, even for Roman numerals.

ER contraction: this should not be used when the ‘e’ is part of a preceding syllable or prefix, e.g. in ‘gericht’, ‘bericht’ etc. In ‘Berlin’ you can contract ER since the syllable is BER- lin. It should not be used in words such as ‘leer’, ‘ERdbeere’, etc. where it forms part of a longer vowel sound.

IE contraction: do not use this at the end of a word where it is not one long syllable but two, e.g. ‘Familie’, but you can in a long ‘e’ sound. It cannot be used in words of foreign origin such as ‘Portier’ – use ER.

ST contraction: do not use this contraction if the two letters belong to different parts of the word since you are bridging syllables, e.g. 'Haustür'.

ß contraction: this contraction should only be used when the special symbol is used in print. Divide as s-s, where the ß sign would be at the end of a braille line immediately before a hyphen or dash.

SCH contraction: this contraction cannot be used when the S is part of a word and the CH is part of a diminutive, e.g. 'Mäuschen – contract CH.

Blank spaces are often left to separate the thousands in German print, as in 1 936 877. Use the mathematical comma in braille.

In German print, the comma often stands for a decimal point, e.g. 2,5 Mill. Use a decimal point in braille.

If a number is printed close up to a word, as in 77jährigen, insert a hyphen in braille.

When a word is divided between C and K at the end of a line, the C should be changed to K before the hyphen, as in German print books.

GERMAN/ENGLISH BILINGUAL TEXT

English Context

1. In English context in a bilingual text, *German code* (including German italics where necessary) should be used for the following:

- (a) German words in quotes or italics.
- (b) German words which form a centred heading.
- (c) German passages which are inset.
- (d) German words which form a source at the end of a sentence or passage in German.
- (e) German words which are separated by a colon from an English interpretation, as in Notes or Vocabulary.

2. Any *German words* in an English context which are in the *same type* as the surrounding text and which do not fall into any of the above categories, may be considered to be Anglicized and English contractions may be used, with care, when these would not distort the pronunciation. However, if any of these words contain

umlauts, they should be uncontracted, preceded by a letter sign and the special accent sign should be used.

3. Any *foreign words other than German* which are in *quotes or italics* in this English context, should be uncontracted and dot 4 should be used for any accent signs.

4. *Foreign words other than German* which are *not in quotes or italics*, should be regarded as Anglicized and English contractions should be used, with care, when these would not distort the pronunciation. The dot 4 method should be used for any accent signs.

German Context

5. In German context, all *foreign* (including English) words in German context which are *not in quotes or italics*, may be considered as Germanicized and German contractions may be used, with care, when these would not distort the pronunciation. The dot 4 method should be used for any accent signs.

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