British Braille Addendum

This document is an addendum to the 2004 edition of British Braille, providing supplementary points and clarifications collected up to the end of 2012. It should be read in conjunction with that publication, referring to the relevant paragraphs as indicated. These additions should be regarded as part of current Standard English Braille, and in case of contradiction supersede statements made in the 2004 publication.

4.3.6. [Additional remarks regarding suppressed letters] Where a dash is both preceded and followed by remaining letters of the word, e.g. as in s—n, a letter sign is not used (for consistency with 4.5.4).

4.4.4. [Additional remarks regarding ellipses and italics] This rule also applies to italicised side headings ending with an ellipsis: the closing italic indicator goes after the last proper word, then the ellipsis follows, then the stop.

4.5.4. [Added example]:

F-------- ☄️..::..::..::..::..

4.6.5. [Added] Where a single letter adjoins an oblique stroke, it should therefore be preceded by a letter sign if it would otherwise be read as a simple upper wordsign according to the above.
Examples:
s/he s/he
p/folio p/folio
book/s book/s

5.2.3 [Regarding the scope of the capital word indicator] Added reference to amended paragraph 8.4.5 in last sentence: "Note however 8.2.9 and 8.4.5 as regards sequenced words."

5.2.8. [Regarding the capital termination sign and the line sign] Amend the first sentence to: "... the termination sign is placed before the first space, hyphen, dash, oblique stroke or line sign after the last capitalized character in the passage."

5.2.10. [Additional example]

THyme THyme

(This is more compact than using the capital word indicator and terminator, though the th contraction cannot be used.)

5.3.5. [Regarding splitting computer code expressions] Before the last sentence add: "When making a split, choose a suitable point where possible, i.e. avoiding dividing natural units such as words and numbers."

5.5.1. [Regarding the italic termination sign and the line sign] Amend the third sentence to: "The termination sign is placed before the first space, hyphen, dash, oblique stroke or line sign after the last italicised character."
5.5.22. [Additional remarks regarding non-capitalized braille] When capitals are not generally indicated in braille, capitals used in print for emphasis may be replaced by italics in braille, unless the distinction needs to be maintained. In the latter case it is normally simplest to resort to indicating capitals just for those words.

5.6.2. [Additional remarks regarding uncontracted braille] According to this rule, in uncontracted braille a case such as "sugar n spice" does not require a letter sign before the "n" because it stands for a word. However, in a case such as "A Smith", a letter sign is still needed in uncontracted braille because "A" is a single letter initial (i.e. not the word "A").

5.6.6. [Additional remarks regarding capitalized phrases] In capitalized braille a string of capital letters, such as an abbreviation, at the beginning of a capitalized phrase, does not require a letter sign because it is preceded by a capital indicator. Where such a string appears other than at the beginning of the phrase it should normally be preceded by a letter sign. However if the string of letters is a case such as CAMRA which according to * 7.1.8 would not have a letter sign in non-capitalized braille, a letter sign is not needed in either case.

5.6.7. [Added] But if a string of letters is split with a hyphen at the end of a line, the letter sign need not be repeated at the beginning of the new line.

5.6.8. [Additional remark] Note that where an example such as 25B occurs within a capitalized phrase, the letter B would be preceded by a letter sign rather than a dot 6 capital sign.
5.6.11. [Added examples]

W-I-N-D-O-W  
P-A-T-H

5.7.3. [Added] Where a capital or italic terminator follows the punctuation mark (see 5.2.8 and 5.5.1) it is treated in the same way as punctuation as regards the spacing of the line sign.

5.8.1. [Added examples]

βHCG  
βHCG (not showing capitals)

5.8.3. [Added paragraph] Words or passages in Old English including special Old English letters should be treated as non-Roman script, and use the braille signs listed in Appendix I (C). Note that although Icelandic also uses the eth ð and thorn þ letters (but also some letters not in the Old English alphabet), if a piece of text including such letters is identified as being Icelandic, it should be brailled using the Icelandic braille code, rather than the Old English code.

6.5.3. [Additions]

After the first group of examples add:

"(Note that the ratio sign is treated differently when using braille mathematics code.)"

Add to the last group of examples:
Note that the following cases should be interpreted as containing hyphens rather than minus signs:

CD-R

CD-RW

6.5.4. [Clarification regarding the use of mathematical signs before words] Amend second sentence to: "However, except as provided in 8.4.12, lower contractions should not be used at the beginning of a word when unspaced from such a sign."

6.5.5. Amend to: "It is generally permissible to use operation and relation signs before the opening bracket or quotation mark of a pair of such marks; but a dot 6 separator should usually be inserted when preceding other lower punctuation marks."

Add example:

(passed 11+)  \[\text{passed} \text { 11}^{+}\]
Add:

(See also the examples in 6.5.3.)

As exceptions, an ellipsis following an operation or relation sign does not require a preceding dot 6 separator, nor does a short or long dash except when following a minus sign.

Examples:

\[
1 + 2 = — \quad 1 + 2 = —
\]

\[
3 – — = 1 \quad 3 – — = 1
\]

It is generally permissible to use operation and relation signs before print symbols.

Examples:

\[
\text{total} + * \quad \text{total} + *
\]

\[
\text{subtotal} + † \quad \text{subtotal} + †
\]

6.6.1. [Add examples]:

1ST

2ND

6.7.1. [Additional remarks regarding capitalized phrases] When Roman numerals occur within capitalized phrases, the same remarks apply as for 5.6.6 above, i.e. at the beginning of the phrase a Roman number is preceded by the capital passage indicator only, whereas elsewhere it is preceded by the letter sign only. However, if the passage
consists of capitalized Roman numerals only, then rather than using passage mode, each Roman number should be preceded by its own capital indicator (either single letter or word as appropriate).

Example:
I, II, III, IV

6.7.4. [Added] Roman numerals and adjacent letters should not be treated as a single string (even if printed in the same case).

WWII (not showing capitals)
WWII (not showing capitals)

7.1.1. [Added examples]:
BoB (Battle of Britain)
e.on

After the examples add: "Some examples including mathematical signs appear in 6.5.3."

7.1.3. [Added examples]:
jpeg
mpeg
7.1.5. [Added examples]:

FRS  \[::\textbf{BB}::\textbf{BB}\] (uncontracted braille)

CD  \[::\textbf{BB}::\textbf{BB}\] (uncontracted braille)

* 7.1.7. [Add example]:

B&B  \[::\textbf{BB}::\textbf{BB}\]

7.1.15. [Added paragraph] Abbreviated words in phone text messages may consist of single letters, or may contain a mixture of letters and other characters, etc. In braille transcription, the aim should normally be to convey the original form. In some cases computer code indicators may be needed in order to represent certain combinations of characters unambiguously.

*Examples:*

R U OK  \[::\textbf{BB}::\textbf{BB}\]

R U OK  \[::\textbf{BB}::\textbf{BB}\] (not showing capitals)

im gr8 \[::\textbf{BB}\cdot\textbf{BB}\]

c u l8r \[::\textbf{BB}\cdot\textbf{BB}\]

:)  \[::\textbf{BB}\cdot\textbf{BB}\] (colon, right round bracket: happy face)

:(  \[::\textbf{BB}\cdot\textbf{BB}\] (colon, left round bracket: sad face)

:D  \[::\textbf{BB}\cdot\textbf{BB}\] (colon, capital D: face with wide grin)
7.2.1. [Add example]:

B&B  (not showing capitals)

7.5.5. [Added examples]:

30°N  (not showing capitals)
30°N  (not showing capitals)

7.5.9. [Added example]:

Salary £—

7.5.15. [Added examples]:

25 µg
100 µΩ

8.2.3. [Added] The preceding restrictions do not apply to the simple upper groupsigns and for or the with used as wordsigns: these can generally be used before or after the apostrophe.

8.4.2. [Added] However, the presence of an italic sign may enable the use of a lower contraction, as in 8.4.3.

8.4.3. [Added] Similarly, a lower contraction may only be used before a capital terminator if the string includes an upper sign.
Added examples:

*In the room.*

HE PUT HIS FOOT IN

8.4.5. [Regarding the contractions to, into and by] Added at end of paragraph: "As in 8.2.9, when such words are sequenced in this way, they do not extend the scope of italic or capital signs to cover other words in the sequence."

8.4.8. [Regarding the contractions to, into and by] Added at end of paragraph: "They may not be used before the italic terminator."

8.4.11. [Regarding the contractions to, into and by] Amended to: "They may not be used in the following cases: before or after the hyphen or apostrophe; before the ellipsis; before other punctuation; before the ampersand or any other print symbol."

8.4.14. [Regarding the contractions be, were, his and was] Amend first sentence to: "These wordsigns may be preceded by the italic sign or followed by the italic terminator.

8.4.21. Added examples: ac- companies; dis- concert.

8.7.5. [Added examples]

AL Jones AL AL AL (AL are initials)

AL Jones AL AL AL (not showing capitals – separate letter signs are used to distinguish from Al Jones)
8.13.2. [Added paragraph] However, for abbreviations and other cases which are normally preceded by a letter sign, the letter sign should be retained.

Examples:
B-B-BBC

Z-Z-ZIP

8.13.4. [Added] The double letter contractions bb, cc, dd, ff and gg should not be used in groups of stammered or slurred letters.

Added examples: Aaagggghhh; dddog; ggggood.

Appendix III: Guide to Contracting - Additional Words

antinational
beryllium
Beyoncé

[April 2013]
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