

# Transcribing Foreign Language Material in UEB

Introduction.....	1
Method 1. Using standard UEB signs throughout .....	2
Method 2. Using foreign language signs for accented letters .....	3
Method 3. Using the full foreign language braille code .....	6
Languages in non-Roman Scripts .....	8
Latin.....	9
Old English .....	9
Welsh.....	10
Standard Usage for Educational Materials .....	10
Reference for Foreign Language Braille Codes .....	11
Appendix.....	12

## Introduction

The rules of UEB allow a range of approaches for transcribing foreign language text, enabling the resulting braille to be convenient to read for a variety of types of text, as well as for different groups of readers. (Full details are given in *Rules of Unified English Braille*, Sections 13 and 14.)

To simplify matters, in the UK we have decided to focus on and recommend three general methods which should be suitable to cover the majority of cases. This document will briefly explain each of these







[A German bilingual dictionary extract. The pattern for entries will be established for the whole dictionary – it is clear that the entry word is German without indicators:]

**länden** *vt (dial) Leiche* to recover (*aus* from)

**Landenge** *f* isthmus

länden vt (dial) Leiche to recover (aus from)  
Landenge f isthmus

[An example advert from a French school textbook:]

**\*\* STUDIO À LOUER**

Lyon, centre ville (75 rue de la République), 4e ét. chauffage individuel à gaz, coin cuisine, douche, meublé. Loyer mensuel €900 avec charges comprises. Tél. Delarue 888.73.25

STUDIO À LOUER  
Lyon, centre ville (75 rue de la République), 4e ét. chauffage individuel à gaz, coin cuisine, douche, meublé. Loyer mensuel €900 avec charges comprises. Tél. Delarue 888.73.25



Y era la verdad que por él caminaba. Y añadió diciendo:  
- Dichosa edad, y siglo dichoso aquel adonde saldrán a luz las famosas  
hazañas mías, dignas de entallarse en bronces, esculpirse en mármoles  
y pintarse en tablas para memoria en lo futuro. ¡Oh tú, sabio  
encantador, quienquiera que seas, a quien ha de tocar el ser coronista  
desta peregrina historia, ruégote que no te olvides de mi buen  
Rocinante, compañero eterno mío en todos mis caminos y carreras!

[From the beginning of Don Quixote, transcribed to contracted Spanish  
braille:]

Y era la verdad que por él caminaba. Y añadió diciendo:

- Dichosa edad, y siglo dichoso aquel adonde saldrán a luz las famosas  
hazañas mías, dignas de entallarse en bronces, esculpirse en mármoles  
y pintarse en tablas para memoria en lo futuro. ¡Oh tú, sabio  
encantador, quienquiera que seas, a quien ha de tocar el ser coronista  
desta peregrina historia, ruégote que no te olvides de mi buen  
Rocinante, compañero eterno mío en todos mis caminos y carreras!

Y era la verdad que por él caminaba. Y añadió diciendo:  
- Dichosa edad, y siglo dichoso aquel adonde saldrán a luz las famosas  
hazañas mías, dignas de entallarse en bronces, esculpirse en mármoles  
y pintarse en tablas para memoria en lo futuro. ¡Oh tú, sabio  
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desta peregrina historia, ruégote que no te olvides de mi buen  
Rocinante, compañero eterno mío en todos mis caminos y carreras!







## Welsh

Although of course not a "foreign" language in the UK, as far as UEB is concerned Welsh is a non-English code and so the above methods, 1, 2 and 3 apply. For many purposes, method 3 – using the full Welsh braille code, will be the most appropriate, e.g. for Welsh-English bilingual documents. On the other hand, method 1 may be used for occasional Welsh words or phrases within otherwise English UEB text.

## Standard Usage for Educational Materials

Note that the guidance given in this document is not intended to exclude other valid approaches where needed, as explained in the *Rules of Unified English Braille*, Sections 13 and 14. However it is meant to instigate a degree of commonality of approach for the majority of cases, so that readers have a familiarity and confidence in the style of the braille that they read.

This is especially important for educational materials, so a standard for published materials for that sector should be regarded as being set by the guidelines given in this document. Thus, in summary, for published educational materials:

- **Method 1** should be used for foreign words, phrases, names, titles, etc. occurring in the majority of books, examination papers and other material generally written in English.
- **Method 2** should generally be used for the foreign text in foreign language school textbooks, foreign language school examination papers, foreign language grammar books and phrase books, bilingual dictionaries (e.g. English/French), etc.
- The specific guidance e.g. on **Languages in non-Roman Scripts**, **Latin** and **Welsh** should be followed in those cases.

## **Reference for Foreign Language Braille Codes**

For information on foreign language braille codes refer to World Braille Usage, Third Edition, available for download from the web site of the Perkins School for the Blind: [www.perkins.org/worldbrailleusage](http://www.perkins.org/worldbrailleusage). This lists accented letter signs for various languages as used in Method 2, as well as braille signs for non-Roman scripts, such as Greek and Russian. It also includes some common punctuation marks as used in Method 3, though reference would usually need to be made to the full foreign language braille code as produced by the country concerned for full information as needed for Method 3.

For convenience an appendix follows which lists accented letters for French, German, Italian and Spanish.

## Appendix

### Some Foreign Language Accented Letters as used with Method 2

#### A. French

⠠ ç	⠠ â	⠠ ë
⠠ é	⠠ ê	⠠ ï
⠠ à	⠠ î	⠠ ü
⠠ è	⠠ ô	⠠ œ
⠠ ù	⠠ û	

#### B. German

⠠ ß	⠠ ö
⠠ ü	⠠ ä

#### C. Italian

(Note: This list, based on that given in World Braille Usage, includes accented letters which would only occur in foreign words in an Italian context.)

⠠ ç	⠠ ê	⠠ ö
⠠ é	⠠ î	⠠ ü
⠠ à	⠠ ô	⠠ ò
⠠ è	⠠ û	⠠ ì
⠠ ù	⠠ ë	
⠠ â	⠠ ï	

## D. Spanish

⠠	á	⠠	ñ	⠠	ó
⠠	é	⠠	ü		
⠠	ú	⠠	í		

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