Lesson 7

Lower Wordsigns for in, enough, be, his, was, were

Lower Groupsigns for in, en, be, con, dis

Introduction to Shortforms

7.1 Definition of Lower Signs

In addition to the one-cell contractions already studied, there is another group of contractions known as lower signs. Combinations of dots which contain neither dot 1 nor dot 4 form these lower contractions. There are lower wordsigns and lower groupsigns. Following are the lower contractions that will be studied in this lesson.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contraction</th>
<th>Wordsign</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Contraction</th>
<th>Groupsign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>::</td>
<td>in</td>
<td></td>
<td>::</td>
<td>in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>::</td>
<td>enough</td>
<td></td>
<td>::</td>
<td>en</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>::</td>
<td>be</td>
<td></td>
<td>::</td>
<td>be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>::</td>
<td>his</td>
<td></td>
<td>::</td>
<td>con</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>::</td>
<td>was</td>
<td></td>
<td>::</td>
<td>dis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>::</td>
<td>were</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Note that the wordsigns in, enough, and be are the same as the groupsigns for in, en, and be.
7.2 Lower Wordsigns for *be, his, was, were* [UEB §10.5]

These contractions, when standing alone, represent whole words.

Example:

Was the food in his backpack enough for the hike? It may be that more sandwiches were needed.

```
\[ \text{Was the food in his backpack enough for the hike? It may be that more sandwiches were needed.} \]
```

7.2a In contact with lower punctuation or indicators. The contractions for *be, his, was, and were* have the same configuration as certain symbols or marks of punctuation. To avoid confusion with punctuation, these wordsigns are only used when they are not in direct contact with any punctuation that has only lower dots. Lower wordsigns may, however, be in contact with capital indicators. Thus, in the following sentence none of the lower wordsigns can be used.

```
\[ \text{His history book was—or rather is—the same color as my books were.} \]
```

Note that the word *his* could have been contracted if it had been preceded only by the capital indicator, but since it is also preceded by the opening quotation mark it was spelled out. The contraction for *his* is not used in the word *history* because the lower wordsigns cannot be used as parts of words. The contraction for *was* may not be used because it precedes a dash. The contraction for *were* may not be used because it would be in contact with the period.

7.3 Enough

This wordsign is used when the word *enough* is standing alone, and, unlike *be, were, his, and was*, it can be used when in contact with lower punctuation signs provided the sequence contains upper dots. Capital indicators and terminators are disregarded when applying this rule. The wordsign can also be used in the word *enough’s*.

```
\[ \text{We have more than enough pictures.} \]
```

```
\[ \text{IT’S JUST NOT ENOUGH \[\]} \]
```
Far-enough  

When the wordsign for *enough* cannot be used, the groupsign for the letters *en* (to be studied next) is used.

"Enough!"  

The lower wordsigns for *be, his, was, were,* and *enough* cannot be used next to a slash because they must always stand alone. Example:

his/hers  his::his:: his::h::s:: plenty/ enough  plenty/::en::ough

7.4 *In*

The wordsign for *in* may be used wherever its word occurs, as long as the surrounding sequence contains upper dots. For example, the *in* wordsign may be used in *brother-in-law* or *in-depth*. It can be used next to a slash.

**Drill 20**

Practice brailling the following sentences. Use a 3-1 margin.

1. Was the man who carried the child in his arms a fireman?
2. "I will be—er—in my study if you need me."
3. Do we have enough gas for the trip?
4. "In-and-out, in-and-out! Can't you decide what you want?"
5. The savagery of the fight was revolting (in fact, three people passed out).
6. That's what it was! A gray wolf hiding in the hedge.
7. Who did that—were you that person?
8. In spite of the fact that Michael was a stand-in for David, the play was a triumph.
9. Choose the correct answer: We was/were going in the morning.

7.5 **Lower groupsigns** [UEB §10.6]

7.5a *In and En.* The same braille configurations that represent the whole words *in* and *enough* are also used to represent the letters *in* and *en* as parts of words. Use these two lower groupsigns wherever the letters they represent occur, except when specific rules limit their use as discussed later.
Consequently, the *in* groupsign is used in *instant, main, pine, minor,* and *Carolina.* The *en* groupsign is used in *enforce, often, senior,* and *Gene.*

It should also be borne in mind that where the *ing* contraction cannot be used because the letters occur at the beginning of the word, as in *ingredient,* the *in* contraction is used (\[**\].)

7.5b **Compound words.** Contractions cannot be used if they overlap the elements of a solid compound word; consequently the *en* groupsign is not used in *toenail or treenail.*

7.5c **Standing alone.** When the letters *en* are standing alone such as in *en route, Chou En-Lai,* or "*en-shaped figure,*" the contraction is not used because it means "enough" when standing alone.

7.5d **Preference for the contractions and, for, of, the, and with.** In words like *then* and *Athens,* the *the* contraction with *n* is used in preference to the *th* with *en* contractions because of the rule stated in UEB §10.10.3, which gives preference to the contractions for *and, for, of, the,* and *with (the strong contractions)* over any other contractions provided their use does not waste space.

7.6 **The Lower-Sign Rule** [UEB §10.5, 10.6]

Any number of unspaced lower groupsigns can follow one another provided the sequence is in contact with a character containing an upper dot (dot 1 or dot 4). Thus, in the following example both the *in* and *en* contractions are used in the word *linen* because the lower signs are in contact with the letter *l.* Example:

> Was it truly his, that suit of fine linen?

\[**x** \* TRULY HIS \* T SUIT \* FINE LINEN \]

**Note:** This rule also applies to other lower wordsigns and groupsigns that will be studied later in this lesson and in Lesson 8.

The groupsigns for *en* or *in* may be in contact with other letters or lower punctuation so long as the sequence is in touch with an upper dot.
Examples:

It's all in vain—encourage her anyway.

\[ \text{I was self-indulgent.} \]

\[ \text{Drill 21} \]

Practice brailling the following sentences. Use a 3-1 margin.

1. When they were finished with the interview the clock was striking seven.
2. If you don't hurry we'll be late for dinner.
3. I worry that they don't have enough food in the house for the entire weekend.
4. In the initial stages of the war all went well.
5. “In my not-so-very-humble opinion,” the indignant man from Virginia proclaimed, “General Lee was indubitably the most outstanding general in the Civil War.”
6. When my in-laws invaded our domain I was in a state of frenzy.
8. If you insist that I be frank, I will be.
9. How few they were, yet how magnificently they defended the homeland!
10. “Enough's enough!” cried the infuriated parent.
11. Dennis is having trouble with denominators that are binomials.
12. His ingrown toenail is giving Henri intolerable pain.
13. You can't deny that the theater is badly in need of a thorough renovating.
14. His enormous hand grasped mine in hearty welcome.
15. Demosthenes was a famous orator of ancient Athens.
16. The insects descended en masse and denuded the fields.
17. Chou En-lai, 1898-1976, was skilled in negotiating (his speeches were exuberant and well expressed).
18. If you haven't anything in our price range we aren't interested in looking.
19. I remember Aunt Inez and how she told me in her southern
drawl, "Joy, for my biscuits you'll need the best flour and fine
shortenin'."

20. Americans just weren't adequately prepared for the attack on
Pearl Harbor and the events that followed.

21. The senator wasn't in, but his secretary greeted us warmly.

22. He finds the climate in Phoenix, Arizona, beneficial for his
asthma.

7.7 Lower Groupsigns for be, con, dis [UEB §10.6]

7.7a As first syllable of word. The contractions for be, con, and dis are
sometimes called the "leader" contractions because they are used only
when they constitute a syllable and occur at the beginning of a word.
Thus, these contractions are used in such words as believe, conduct, and
district. They are not used in words such as unbelievable, misconduct, or
predisposed where they do not occur at the beginning of the word. Nor
are they used in such words as bee, belligerent, conch, and disc where
other letters are included in the syllable; or in disheveled where all the
letters do not fall in the same syllable.

These groupsigns can, however, be used when they constitute the
first syllable of the second word of a hyphenated compound word such as
self-control or non-disposable, since the second word is standing alone.

7.7b With punctuation. The contractions for be, con, and dis are used when
punctuation comes before them. Examples:

"Control that dog!"

**CONTROL \ T \ DOG**

(becoming, don't you think?)

**BELIEVE \ CON \ NOT \ Y \ DISNEY**

Do not use the groupsigns for be, con, and dis when punctuation or a
capital indicator comes immediately after them. As a consequence, they
are not used in syllabicated words. Examples:
7.7c The words con and dis. Remember that the contractions for con and dis are purely groupsigns and therefore cannot be used to represent the whole words con (as in the expression pro and con), or the slang expression dis.

Examples: con, (con)n(ing), conn(ed), dis, (dis)s(ing), diss(ed)

7.8 More on Lower Sign Rule

When two or more lower groupsigns would follow one another without being in contact with an upper dot, the final lower groupsign is not used. Example:

Stop bein' so silly! [stop bein' so silly]
### 7.9 Be, con, and dis, in Abbreviations

If any of these three contractions can be used in a complete word, it can also be used in the abbreviation for that word. Thus, since the *con* sign is used in the word *Connecticut*, it should also be used in the abbreviation *Conn*. Likewise, the *dis* sign should be used in *Dist.*, the abbreviation for *District*. Of course, if the letters comprising any of these contractions constitute an entire abbreviation, as in *Con.* for *Consolidated*, the contraction cannot be used as it would result in two lower signs following one another without a space, and neither would be in contact with a character containing dot 1 or dot 4. Also, if these contractions could not have been used in the word itself, they should not be used in its abbreviation, as in *Belg.*., the abbreviation for *Belgium*.

### 7.10 Introduction to Shortforms  [UEB §10.9]

In addition to contractions, braille contains abbreviated forms for many words that will be studied in succeeding lessons. They are called shortforms. Memorize the following six shortforms.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Short-form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Short-form</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>gd</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>pd</td>
<td>paid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lr</td>
<td>letter</td>
<td>qk</td>
<td>quick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ll</td>
<td>little</td>
<td>sd</td>
<td>said</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example:

The letter said that good little boys and girls get paid quick.

```
ll lr sd t gd ll boys y girls get pd  qk4
```

### Drill 23

Practice brailling the following sentences. Use a 1-3 margin.

1. The letter, I confess, left Dad looking rather bewildered.
2. I paid little heed when I was told that Connie and Beatrice were becoming constant companions.
3. Disposing of this problem will not be quick and will require the combined efforts of all of us.

4. The politician's denial was disingenuous.

5. Betty's behavior in school was unbecoming for a child her age—maybe she'll improve next year.

6. Benedict's wife, who is the president of the Ladies Benevolent Society of St. John's Church, paid me a visit.

7. With considerable effort she regained her self-control and continued perusing the letter.

8. Most of the men who man our submarines are trained at New London, Conn.

9. Ben O'Connor, a good little guy, is my choice for the job—disregard the rumors of "history".

10. Constable Hemingway pointed his gun menacingly and ordered, "Quick! Come out from be'ind that bar!"

**Reading Practice**

Write the following sentences in print. Compare your work with the print version in Appendix A.

---

"It's a beautiful day. I say, bananas! I decided to take a lot of pictures. We saw a lot of sites. We'll visit the historical sites. I'm going to make a trip next year. We'll visit New York next year."

---
EXERCISE

Prepare the following exercise for submission to the instructor. Use a 1-3 margin. After you have successfully completed this exercise, the instructor will provide you with a reading exercise to complete before proceeding to Lesson 8.

LESSON 7

1. Dickens and Thackeray were the two most outstanding British novelists of the nineteenth century.

2. Grandpa will be in his late seventies when I graduate from college.

3. The doctor was insistent that he not get out of bed until well enough.

4. He recited Tennyson's “In Memoriam” with intense feeling.

5. “The enormous volcano is erupting,” enunciated the announcer.

6. Her prenatal exam shows that she has gastroenteritis.

7. We laughed as she told her tale—in a rather loud, animated, but humorous vein—involving her dog Buddy.

8. She says she feels insecure when she rides in a twin-engine plane.

9. When I've saved enough, I'll buy the entire set of J.K. Rowling from books_online.com for my grandchild.
10. Virgil's AENEID opens with the flight of the hero from Troy.
11. If he will take daily calisthenics for a few months his physique will be immensely strengthened.
12. A wooden peg used for joining timbers is called a treenail.
13. The renovated home was splendidly decorated in the style of the era.
14. I think the interior of PIANOBar on 5th St. needs a complete redesign — they haven't even repainted it since the 1960s.
15. When Mr. Engles retired he started delivering groceries for shut-ins.
16. Jane absolutely loved the linen suit her Mom sent her from Italy.
17. We felt very sad when the lovely coniferous tree fell down.
18. Benedict Arnold betrayed the United States when he surrendered West Point.
19. His boss said that my brother-in-law, Erin, wasn't responsible for the failure of the company.
20. “Which'll it be, madame, soda or ginger ale?” inquired the bespectacled waiter.
21. Study the following antonyms: in/out, his/hers, content/dismayed, nervous/composed.
22. Apparently the bill was paid, but the matter will be looked into by the agency.
23. Our officers' meeting will be chiefly concerned with considering the new budget.
24. The lines of the pattern are very subtle and indistinct.
25. The denial of freedom of the press is a distinctly totalitarian phenomenon.
26. I find things like trinomials and logarithms a constant enigma.
27. I left the dinghy on the side of the Wisconsin River and continued my journey on foot.
28. “You be good an' come out quick with yer hands up,” said the sheriff, “or I'm comin' in and git yuh.”
29. As a Naval ex-commander, John Jamison of Jamestown was a firm believer in discipline.
30. Intercontinental flights arrive hourly at Dulles Airport.
31. The auto crash left his hair disheveled and his clothing in disarray.

32. As the strutting cockney orator took his place on the rostrum, he began: "On be'alf of all decent Henglishmen I protest this insolent be'avior of the 'Ouse of Commons!"

33. In a closely-contested race, O'Connor (his twitter handle is @OconnorDFL) was chosen Congressman from the 1st Dist. of Iowa.

34. That was intended as a tribute, not a dis.

35. When she arrived at the studio, she discovered a hastily-scribbled note that said, "CALLED OUT OF TOWN UNEXPECTEDLY; FOR NEXT LESSON PRACTICE MOZART'S CON. NO. 18."

36. If Leslie remains very patient, maybe Mr. Drew will change his mind and write her that letter (with $50.00 enclosed).

37. By constantly reminding us to "overcome," Martin Luther King gave us hope and pride.

38. His behavior denoted that Adam was continually undismayed at the most unexpected outcome.

[This lesson last updated November 28, 2016]