

## **LESSON 6**

- LEVEL INDICATORS
  - Superscripts
  - Baseline Indicator
  - Subscripts
  - More about Superscripts and Subscripts

### *Format*

- Itemized Material with Subdivisions
- Tabular Format
- Margins for Exercise Sets

### *Answers to Practice Material*

## **LESSON PREVIEW**

This lesson begins by looking at format. Itemized material with subdivisions is found throughout math textbooks, in exercise sets, and in answer sections. The rules differ somewhat from those followed in a nontechnical transcription. The topic of superscripts and subscripts is presented. Superscript, subscript, and baseline indicators are introduced. The lesson ends with another look at grouping signs as they relate to level indicators.





*Example 6-4*

5. Does the method of creating whole number x-terms work with decimals? Consider this example.

A jacket is marked 15% off. The sale cost is \$36.31. Expressed as an equation,  $0.85x = 36.21$ .

- a. What is the meaning of 0.85 in the equation?
- b. To eliminate the decimal, multiply both sides of the equation by a number that will result in an integer coefficient.

Can you find such a number? If you can, list at least one. If you cannot, explain why not.

c. Now solve the equation. What was the original price of the jacket?

6. ...

*[This section contains a large block of Braille text, which is a direct transcription of the printed text above. It includes the problem statement, the list of questions (a, b, c), and the continuation prompt '6. ...'. The Braille is formatted with appropriate indentation and line spacing to match the visual structure of the original document.]*

*In Nemeth, indentation of the first line of each new paragraph organizes the narrative. A blank line precedes and follows the displayed word problem, as directed by Braille Formats guidelines for displayed material, but the blocked*



**PRACTICE 6A**

23. Simplify and solve each equation below for  $x$ . Show your work and check your answer.

- a.  $24 = 3x + 3$       b.  $2(x - 6) = x - 14$   
 c.  $6 + 2.5x = 21$     d.  $2(x + 4.5) = 32$

6.1.3 **Tabular Format.** When itemized material is arranged in tabular form so that items are numbered at the margin and subdivisions are aligned beneath lettered column headings, the material should be transcribed in one of the following ways, depending upon whether all of the columns can be accommodated across the braille page.

a. **When to Retain Column Format.** If all the columns can be accommodated across the braille page, the print columnar arrangement is followed. Each problem number begins in cell 1. The letter identifying each column is aligned with the first cell of the related column. A blank line is left above and below the lettered column headings. Two blank cells separate the columns. Guide dots are not used.

Example 6-7

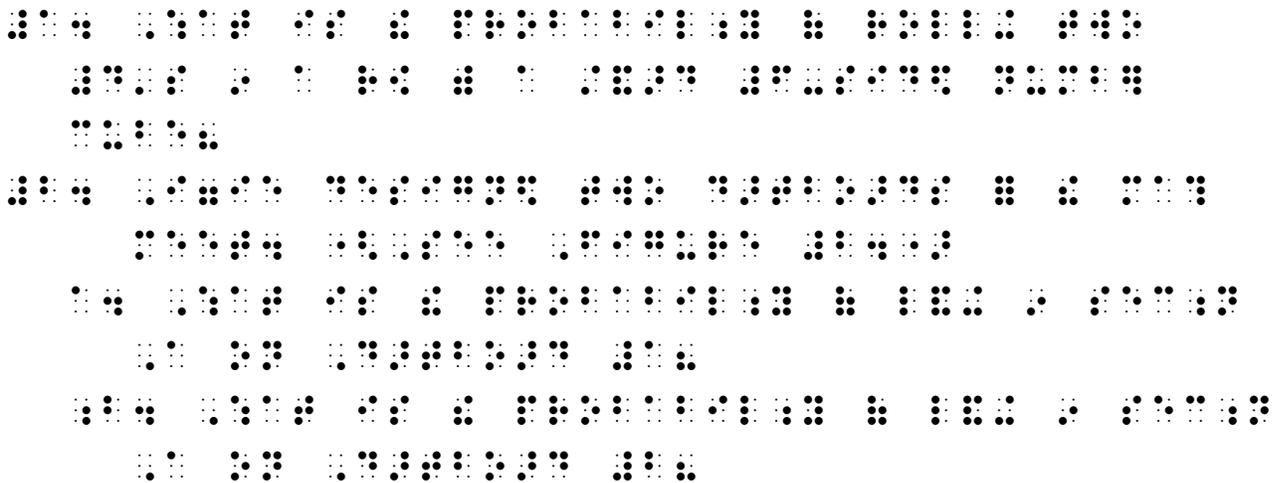
	a	b	c
1.	$16 + 9$	$17 + 4$	$14 + 23$
2.	$46 + 15$	$87 + 12$	$95 + 54$
3.	$157 + 452$	$134 + 63$	$458 + 12$



6.1.4 **Varied Margins.** Runover margins for itemized material are determined individually for each item. That is, an item with no subdivisions will be (1-3); the next item may have subdivisions and so will be (1-5; 3-5), etc.

*Example 6-9*

1. What is the probability of rolling two 4's in a row with a standard 6-sided number cube?
2. Iggie designed two dartboards for the math meet. (See Figure 2.)
  - a. What is the probability of landing in section A on Dartboard 1?
  - b. What is the probability of landing in section A on Dartboard 2?



# LEVEL INDICATORS

[NC Rule 14]

## 6.2 Definition

A mathematical expression can contain symbols placed above or below the baseline level (the normal line of type in print). Superscripts appear above the baseline; subscripts appear below the baseline. Here are some expressions which contain superscripts and subscripts. The baseline is marked for orientation.

$$\_baseline\_ 10^5 \text{ H}_2\text{O}^{-4} \text{ }^\circ\text{C} \ \pi r^2 \text{ }^{235}_{92}\text{U} \_baseline\_$$

The font size is increased for most examples in this lesson to help in determining the levels.

## Superscripts

## 6.3 Superscript Level Indicator

In braille, indicators are used to identify the level of a superscript or subscript. The superscript level indicator is used to show that the symbols immediately following it appear on the first level above the baseline of writing.

⠠ Superscript Indicator

⦿  $10^3$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

⦿  $y = [g(x)]^n$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

The characters in the superscript are spaced according to the rules of the Nemeth Code.

⦿  $3^{-0.05T}$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

A letter or a Roman numeral with a superscript does not need an English-letter indicator because it is not followed by a space.

⦿  $x^3$  ⠠⠠⠠

### Example 6-10

Statements  $i^2$  and  $ii^2$ .

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠





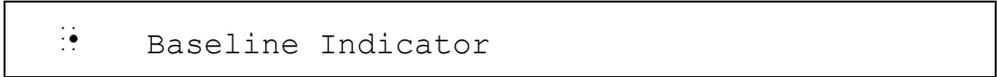




## *Introduction to the Baseline Indicator*

### 6.6 Function of the Baseline Indicator

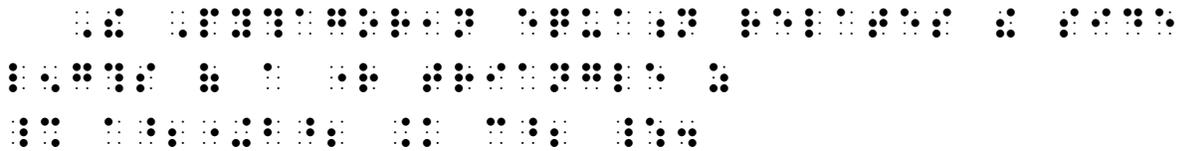
In an unspaced expression, a return to the baseline level is brought about by the use of the baseline indicator. Notice that the baseline indicator is the same symbol as the multipurpose indicator—dot 5. The indicator's function is understood in context.





#### Example 6-21

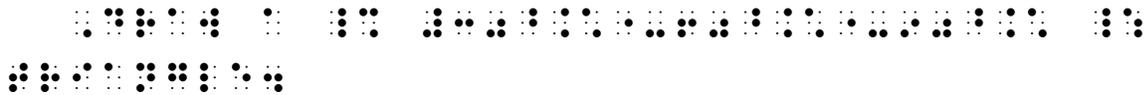
The Pythagorean equation relates the side lengths of a right triangle as  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ .



*The baseline is re-established before the plus sign.*

#### Example 6-22

Draw a 30°-60°-90° triangle.



*The baseline is re-established before each hyphen.*

#### Example 6-23

Solve.  $(x^2 + y^2) - (x^2 + y^2)$



*The baseline is re-established before each plus sign and before each right parenthesis.*

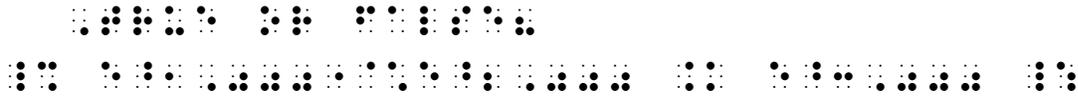
**6.6.1 Degrees Fahrenheit and Degrees Celsius.** The abbreviations F (Fahrenheit) and C (Celsius) are given special consideration. Follow print spacing when these abbreviations are printed with a degree sign (raised hollow dot). A baseline indicator will be required when the degree sign is unspaced from the letter. Note that, when the letter stands alone, an English-letter indicator is required, but when the letter is unspaced from the raised hollow dot, an English-letter indicator is no longer needed. F and C are punctuated in literary mode when spaced away from the degree





Example 6-27

True or false?  $e^{1,000} \times e^{2,000} = e^{3,000}$



*When a space brings the reader back to the baseline, a baseline indicator is not needed.*

**6.8 Certain Raised Signs**

Some signs are printed in a raised position but are not considered to be superscripts.

6.8.1 **Raised Ordinal.** *Braille Formats* states that raised ordinal endings are not considered to be superscript. This guideline is also followed in a technical transcription.

Example 6-28

Name the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> item in the series.



*The ordinal endings are printed in the raised position.*

Example 6-29

What is the 3n<sup>th</sup> degree?

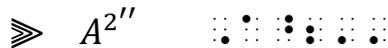


*"th" is printed in the raised position.*

6.8.2 **Prime Sign.** The prime sign appears to be raised in print but it assumes the same level as the number or letter to which it applies.



*The prime sign belongs with the letter m. Only the number 2 is in the superscript position.*



*The prime signs belong with the number 2 in the superscript.*

Example 6-30

plane angle  $\alpha = 30^\circ 2' 8''$



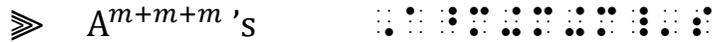
*The prime signs are not superscripts. They apply to numbers at the baseline of writing.*

6.8.3 **Apostrophe-s.** In an apostrophe-s ending, the apostrophe is at the same level as the "s". Because a punctuation indicator returns the reader to the baseline, a level indicator is inserted to maintain the level of the apostrophe-s.



*The apostrophe-s applies to m+m+m.*

Compare to this example where the "s" and its apostrophe are printed on the baseline level.



*The apostrophe-s applies to the entire expression A^{m+m+m}.*

**PRACTICE 6E**

1. Use a calculator to find  $9^{9^9}$ .
2. Find the  $r^{\text{th}}$  term of  $(x + y)^n$ .
3. Label the  $x^2$ 's and  $x^3$ 's.
4. What is the meaning of  $x''^3$ ?
5. Simplify:  $(x^3 - y^3)^2 - (x^3 + y^3)^2$ .
6.  $x^{y^nz}$  or  $x^{y^2z}$

## *Subscripts*

### 6.9 Subscript Level Indicators

Except as stated in Section [6.11](#) below, the subscript level indicator is used to show that the symbols immediately following it appear on the first level below the baseline of writing. Note that the subscript indicator is the same symbol as the English-letter indicator—dots 56. The indicator's function is understood in context.

⠠ Subscript Indicator

➤  $f_n$       ⠠ ⠠ ⠠

➤  $a_{(k+1)}$       ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠

Subscripts may carry subscripts of their own. In such cases, the subscript level indicator is doubled, tripled, etc. to indicate subscripts on the second, third, or lower levels.

⠠⠠ Subscript with Subscript  
(two levels below the baseline)

⠠⠠⠠ Subscript with Subscript with Subscript  
(three levels below the baseline)

➤  $n_{x_y}$       ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠

➤  $P_{x+1y+1z+1}$       ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠ ⠠

*Note:* The -?- in the second column is in the subscript position. The subscript of the second item in the fourth column is "minus two".

#### PRACTICE 6F

$3_c$	$10_8$	$?_3$	$x_{2+k}$
$3_{\text{five}}$	$10_{?-}$	$\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$	$y_{-2}$
$y_{n_k}$	$P_{3n}$	$a_{m1}$	$a_{m_1}$









- b. A subscript level indicator must be used in the following circumstances.
- A numeral on the first level below the baseline requires a subscript indicator if the subscript contains any symbol other than a numeral with its comma or decimal point.
  - A numeral on the first level below the baseline requires a subscript indicator if the subscript carries a superscript or subscript of its own.
  - A subscript on the second or lower level always requires the appropriate subscript level indicator.
  - If the subscript is a letter that is part of a word or an abbreviation, a subscript indicator is required.
  - If the subscript is a letter functioning as a numeral in a nondecimal numeration system, a subscript indicator is required.

### PRACTICE 6H

- 1) These expressions need subscript indicators:  $y_{-2}$ ,  $x_{2+k}$ ,  $a_{m1}$ ,  $x_{3n}$ ,  $x_{y_2}$ .
- 2) These expressions do not need a subscript indicator:  $x_1$ ,  $ax_2$ ,  $\text{CO}_2$ ,  $z_{.4}$ ,  $\beta_2$ .
- 3) Decide whether these expressions require a subscript indicator and transcribe them correctly:  $\text{shape}_4$ ,  $Q'_{\ 2}$ ,  $\text{C}_6\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_{12}$ ,  $n_k$ ,  $x_{2k}$ ,  $P_{r_{st}}$ ,  $D_{56}$ ,  $G_{9,999}$ , and the hexadecimal number  $2\text{E}6\text{B}_{16}$ .
- 4) **Chemistry.** While  $\text{Na}_2\text{ZnCl}_4$  could be cooled in the normal way,  $\text{Na}_2[\text{CoCl}_4]$  had to be quenched in the liquid  $\text{N}_2$ .
- 5)  $f_1(x) = g(x) \cdot q_2(x) + f_2(x)$

## 6.12 Spaces Within Superscripts and Subscripts

A space usually returns the reader to the baseline. Various strategies are used to retain the level in effect when a space occurs within a superscript or a subscript.

6.12.1 **Commas.** *Review:* A comma followed by a space re-establishes the baseline. The return to the baseline starts at the comma. No baseline indicator is necessary.

$$\begin{array}{l} \gg x^2, y^2, z^2 \qquad \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \quad \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \quad \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \\ \gg (a_1, a_{1i}, a_{2i}) \quad \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \quad \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \quad \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \end{array}$$







6.12.5 **Ellipsis or Long Dash on the Baseline of Writing.** Because the space before an ellipsis or long dash maintains the level in effect, an indicator is required to return to the baseline when the symbol is printed there. The baseline indicator takes the place of the required space.

$\gg a^1 b^2 c^3 d^4 \dots z^n$

There is no need to indicate a return to the baseline after a numeric subscript that does not require a subscript indicator.

$\gg r_1 \dots r_n$

*The ellipsis is printed on the baseline. The subscripts are 1 and n.*

6.12.6 **Segmented Numbers.** The effect of a level indicator extends through the space inserted in a numeral for the purpose of dividing it into short regular groups of digits.

$\gg e^{3.14159 26535}$

*The superscript is 3.14159 26535*



## More about Superscripts and Subscripts

### 6.13 Superscript and Subscript Combinations

Combinations of subscripts to superscripts or of superscripts to subscripts require level indicators composed of two or more braille symbols. Keeping in mind that level indicators relate to the baseline, transcribing these expressions is an exercise in logical thinking.

#### Superscripts with Subscripts

⠠⠠⠠⠠ Superscript With Subscript

➤  $x^{n_1}$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

*"n, subscript one" is in the superscript position. "1" is a supersubscript.*

➤  $2^{Y_0} = Y_1$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

*"Y, subscript zero" is in the superscript position. "0" is a supersubscript.*

*Reminder:* The subscript indicator is omitted for a numeric subscript to a letter only for subscripts that are located on the first level below the baseline of writing. The super/subscript indicator is needed to show a numeric subscript in the superscript position.

#### Subscripts with Superscripts

⠠⠠⠠⠠ Subscript With Superscript

➤  $x_n^2$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

*"n, superscript two" is in the subscript position. "2" is a subsuperscript.*

➤  $P_3^n$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

*"3, superscript n" is in the subscript position. "n" is a subsuperscript.*

*Reminder:* The subscript indicator is required when a numeric subscript to a letter carries a superscript or subscript of its own.

*Instructions:* Descriptions are included in a right-hand column for your benefit—do not transcribe the descriptions. *Formatting Guidelines:* Transcribe the bold type as cell-5 headings. Place the opening Nemeth Code indicator on the next line and begin the list on the following line. Place the Nemeth Code terminator on the line following each list, in cell 1. Analyze the levels carefully as you proofread.

## PRACTICE 6J

### Superscripts with Subscripts

$2^{\aleph_0} = \aleph_1$	<i><math>\aleph_0</math> is in the superscript position.</i>
$a = 2^{k_1}$ and $b = 2^{k_2}$	<i><math>k_1</math> and <math>k_2</math> are in the superscript position.</i>
$(ab)^x = 2^{k_1x} \cdot 2^{k_2x}$	<i><math>x</math>, <math>k_1x</math>, and <math>k_2x</math> are superscripts.</i>
$e^{i\theta_1}$ times $e^{i\theta_2}$ equals $e^{i(\theta_1+\theta_2)}$	<i><math>i\theta_1</math>, <math>i\theta_2</math>, and <math>i(\theta_1 + \theta_2)</math> are superscripts.</i>

### Subscripts with Superscripts

$Z_5^n$	<i><math>5^n</math> is in the subscript position.</i>
$7t_{s^4}$	<i><math>s^4</math> is in the subscript position.</i>

## 6.14 Left Subscripts and Superscripts

The appropriate level indicator is transcribed before a subscript or superscript printed to the left of its related sign.

$\gg 1^4C$	
$\gg 3X_1$	
$\gg 4_8C_9 \times 4_4C_4$	

*The "9" and the second "4" are numeric subscripts to the right of a letter on the baseline of writing, so no subscript indicator is needed.*

6.14.1 **Raised Negative Sign.** In some texts, negative numbers are shown with a raised negative sign. The raised position of the negative sign must be shown in braille. A numeric indicator is not required when the negative sign is raised.

$\gg -4$	
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Compare: A numeric indicator is required when the negative sign is not raised.

$$\gg -4 \quad \dots \dots \dots$$

Example 6-39

Explain why  $4 + ^{-}4 = 0$ .

$$\dots \dots \dots$$

Example 6-40

A and B are points with coordinates (5, 2) and (-1, 4) respectively.

$$\dots \dots \dots$$

Compare the subscripts in the next two examples. The first subscript is -2. A subscript indicator is required because the subscript contains a symbol other than a numeral. In the second subscript, the negative sign is raised. It is a left superscript to the subscript "2".

$$\gg x_{-2} \quad \dots \dots \dots$$

$$\gg x_{^{-}2} \quad \dots \dots \dots$$

**6.15 Further Combinations**

The Nemeth code book illustrates additional combinations of superscripts and subscripts. Due to the obscurity of such complex combinations, only a few examples are shown in this lesson manual. Proper interpretation of these characters will require reading the surrounding text in order to apply the correct indicators. (Notice that the letter on the baseline of writing is often a larger font.)

$$\gg yx^n$$

*n is on the baseline of writing and has a left subscript. Question: Is the subscript  $y^x$  or  $yx$  ?*

This transcription shows left subscript "y" with a subsuperscript "x".

$$\dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots$$

This transcription shows left subscript "x" with a left subsuperscript "y".

$$\dots \dots \dots \dots \dots \dots$$

➤  $x_y n$

*n is on the baseline of writing and has a left subscript. Question: Is the subscript  $x_y$  or  $^x y$  ?*

This transcription shows left subscript "x" with a subsuperscript "y".

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

This transcription shows left subscript "y" with a left subsuperscript "x".

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

### 6.16 Consecutive Superscripts and Subscripts

When a character with right superscript or subscript is adjacent to a character with a left superscript or subscript, each superscript or subscript has its own level indicator. A multipurpose indicator is inserted between the consecutive symbols. A space may appear in print to help visually differentiate the two super/subscripts, but no space comes between the symbols in braille.

➤  $p^{b^c} q$      ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

*(There is a small space between b and c in print.)*

➤  $P_{x^y} Q$      ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

*(There is a small space between x and y in print.)*

➤  $P_{1_2} Q$      ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

*(There is a small space between 1 and 2 in print.) The first numeric subscript does not require a subscript indicator because it is a right subscript to a letter.*

### 6.17 Simultaneous Superscripts and Subscripts

When a superscript and a subscript are printed directly above and below each other, the subscript is transcribed first.

➤  $10_8^3$      ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

➤  ${}_{92}^{238}U$      ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠





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*Note:* There is no space between the subscript and the superscript in item #3.

### PRACTICE 6K

1. Here are some expressions with left superscripts:  ${}^3x$ ,  ${}^nx$ ,  
 ${}^{-2} + {}^{-4} = {}^{-6}$ ,  $(-3)^{-2+2}$ .
  2.  ${}^{12}_6\text{C}$  and  ${}^{12}\text{C}$  represent the same carbon isotope.
  3.  $\text{D}_2{}^{18}\text{O}$  is the doubly labeled water isotopologue!
  4. In  $\text{CO}_2$ , the subscript  $_2$  means "two oxygen atoms".
  5.  ${}_nP_r = K({}_{n-1}P_{r-1})$
  6.  $a_1^2 + b_1^2 + c_1^2$
  7.  $[t]_0^4$
  8.  $2 \times 10_6^2 + 3 \times 10_6^1 + 2$
  9.  $P_{xy}Q$
  10.  $\text{NH}_4^+ + \text{Cl}^- + \text{H}_2\text{O}$
-



- c. Lesson 4 explained that, when a letter touches only one grouping symbol, the English-letter indicator is applied (or is not applied) as though the grouping sign were not present. This rule is illustrated below in the context of a grouping sign that has a simultaneous subscript and superscript.

$\gg s]_a^b$ 


*Think:*  $s_a^b$ 


*Instructions:* Treat each vertical bar in sentence (6) as an operation sign.

### PRACTICE 6L

- (1)  $\{f_n\}$
- (2)  $|a_m - a_n|$
- (3)  $(x_1y_1 + x_2y_2)$
- (4)  $([\text{CH}_3]_2\text{CH})$
- (5)  $I_{\text{ue}}^{2''} = (\text{H}'_{44}x'_{\text{ve}})^{+'}$
- (6) The dagger and the asterisk are used as superscripts in quantum mechanics:  $A^\dagger, (x^\dagger)^\dagger = x, \langle \phi | \psi \rangle^* = \langle \psi | \phi \rangle$ .

*For further practice, see Appendix A—Reading Practice.*

### EXERCISE 6

Prepare Exercise 6 for your grader.



## PRACTICE 6C

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15

*Runover margins for itemized material are determined individually for each question. Item 2 has subdivisions—its runover position (line 5) is cell 5.*

## PRACTICE 6D

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10





### PRACTICE 6I

1.  $x_{1,2} \neq x^{i,j}$
2.  $x_{n-1,n-1}, x_{n-1,n}, x_{n,n-1}$
3.  $A^{n+n+n}$  all  $n$ 's are equal.
4.  $s]_{t=a}$
5.  $e^{1,000}$
6.  $a^{m+k} \div a^m = a^k$
7.  $P_{s_1 \dots s_2}$  and  $P_{q_r, s}$
8.  $10_{-?-} = 6_8$
9.  $a'_1, a'_2, \dots, a'_n$  are the inverses.
10.  $\aleph_0$  represents the cardinality of the set of all natural numbers.

### PRACTICE 6J

1. 
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
6. 
7. 
8. 
9. 
10. 
11. 
12. 
13. 
14. 

