

LESSON 12

- **MODIFIERS AND MODIFIED EXPRESSIONS**
 - Common Modifiers
 - Binomial Coefficient
 - Modified Expressions and Superscripts / Subscripts
 - Modified Signs of Comparison
 - Expressions with More Than One Modifier

Format

- Formal Proof

Postscript: Vector Notation Notes

Answers to Practice Material

LESSON PREVIEW

Another type of mathematical notation with vertical components is studied. This lesson also applies the "mathematical statement" format to formal proofs.

Some of the print examples are enlarged in order to more clearly show the modifiers on the printed page. You may also wish to use a magnifier to remove any uncertainty.

MODIFIERS AND MODIFIED EXPRESSIONS

[NC Rule 15]

Some mathematical notation has a vertical aspect that challenges linear braille notation. By using modified expression indicators, the transcriber can relay the material in a compact manner, and the reader can construct the symbols into a meaningful expression.

12.1 Definition

A modifier is a symbol or a combination of symbols occurring *directly over* or *directly under* its related symbol or expression. Here are some typical examples.

$\overset{?}{=}$ a question mark over an equals sign

$\underline{3.15}$ an underlined digit

$1.\overline{37}$ a line over two numerals (signifying a repeating decimal)

\overleftrightarrow{AB} an arrow over two letters (signifying a line)

\hat{k} a caret over a letter

12.2 Construction of Simple Modified Expressions – The Five-Step Rule

An expression modified using the five-step method is initiated and terminated with special indicators.

$\ddot{\cdot}$	Multipurpose Indicator
$\ddot{\cdot}$	Termination Indicator

The position of the modifier (above or below the expression) is also shown with the use of an indicator.

$\overset{\cdot}{\cdot}$	Directly-Over Indicator
$\underset{\cdot}{\cdot}$	Directly-Under Indicator

The process of constructing a modified expression is known as "The Five-Step Rule".

- (1) The *multipurpose indicator* is placed immediately before the expression to be modified.
- (2) The *expression* to be modified is written second.

(3) The *directly-over indicator* or the *directly-under indicator* is written third to show the position of the modifier.

(4) The *modifying symbol* is written fourth.

(5) The *termination indicator* is written last to show the end of the modification.

Notice that the multipurpose indicator, dot 5, signals the beginning of the modified expression and the termination indicator signals the completion of the modified expression.

Prototype for an expression with a modifier printed directly above it: $\cdot \underline{\quad} \ddot{\cdot} \underline{\quad} \ddot{\cdot}$

Prototype for an expression with a modifier printed directly below it: $\cdot \underline{\quad} \ddot{\cdot} \underline{\quad} \ddot{\cdot}$

All components of an expression modified according to the five-step rule should not be divided between lines. If that is not possible, strategies will be presented in Lesson 15.

Common Modifiers

The most commonly used modifiers are presented in this lesson. You have seen many of these symbols in other contexts in previous lessons. Symbols of the code not shown here may also be used as modifiers.

12.3 Arrows as Modifiers

Any of the arrows of the Nemeth Code may be a modifier. Those used in this section are shown below.

$\ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot}$	Arrow barbed at right, contracted form	\rightarrow
$\ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot}$	Arrow barbed at both ends	\leftrightarrow
$\ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot}$	Arrow shaft with hollow dot at right	$\rightarrow\circ$
$\ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot}$	Upper barb only, right pointing	\rightarrow
$\ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot} \ddot{\cdot}$	Arrow barbed at right, dashed shaft	\dashrightarrow

12.3.1 **Right-Pointing Arrow.** A right-pointing arrow in regular type with a full barb and single shaft of ordinary length is transcribed in its contracted form when used as a modifier above or below a math expression. The shaft length in print is determined by the width of the expression it modifies. If the modified expression is wide, the arrow shaft will be long in print, but this is not considered to be a "longer than ordinary" arrow shaft in this context.

\Rightarrow \overrightarrow{OB}

OB is the expression being modified. It is modified directly over with a right-pointing arrow with a dashed shaft.

Example 12-1

\overleftrightarrow{PQ} is a line through points P and Q.

\overleftrightarrow{PQ}

Example 12-2

We now conclude that $\overrightarrow{OP} = \overrightarrow{OT} + \overrightarrow{TP}$

$\overrightarrow{OP} = \overrightarrow{OT} + \overrightarrow{TP}$

Reminder from Lesson 1: If a math expression will fit on one line but there is not room for one or both of the switch indicators, one or both switch indicators may stand alone on a line. Keeping the mathematical expression intact on one line is the priority.

12.3.3 **Arrows Used in Vector Notation.** When identical arrows are used above vectors in boldface type throughout the text, they are omitted from the braille transcription. The boldface font attribute of the vectors is considered to be sufficient identification. A transcriber's note is required to explain the presence of the arrows in print. Sample transcriber's note: "The right-pointing arrows printed over boldface vectors are omitted."

Example 12-3

Vector Addition. By adding vectors \overrightarrow{CD} and \overrightarrow{EF} , the resultant vector, \mathbf{r} , is found.

$$\overrightarrow{CD} + \overrightarrow{EF} = \mathbf{r}$$

$\overrightarrow{CD} + \overrightarrow{EF} = \mathbf{r}$

The arrows printed above CD and EF are not transcribed. The bold typeform is retained. (Assume the required transcriber's note appears on the Transcriber's Notes page.)

See the [Postscript](#) at the end of this lesson for notes regarding other types of vector notation.

- 12.3.4 **When the Arrow Itself is Being Modified.** A right-pointing arrow in regular type with a full barb and single shaft of ordinary length is transcribed in its uncontracted form when the arrow itself is being modified.

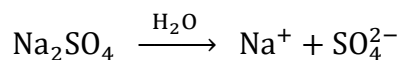
⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿	Arrow barbed at right, uncontracted form	→
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⦿ x $\xrightarrow{f \circ g}$ y ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿ ⦿

*A right-pointing arrow is the expression being modified.
It is modified directly over with the operation $f \circ g$
Reminder: In function notation, \circ is a hollow dot, not the letter "o".*

- 12.3.5 **When Other Rules Apply.** Some arrangements that may appear to be modified arrows are not transcribed using the Five-Step Rule.

- Signs of Comparison Compounded Vertically.** Horizontal arrows printed one below the other are a sign of comparison compounded vertically. Review this topic in Lesson 9.
- Chemistry.** Words or symbols printed above reaction arrows are not treated as modifiers. Rules for these constructions are found in *Chemical Notation Using the Nemeth Braille Code*.



- Elementary Mathematics—"ARROW MATH" in Lower Grades.** These arrows are not "modified arrows". They are not being used as a sign of comparison, but rather as a "process". Draw these arrows as a tactile graphic. Refer to BANA's *Guidelines and Standards for Tactile Graphics* for techniques.

Example 12-4

Use arrow math to add $36 + 23$.

$$36 \xrightarrow{+20} 56 \xrightarrow{+3} 59 \quad 36 + 23 = 59$$

Braille representation of the example above, showing the numbers 36, 56, 59, and the equation 36 + 23 = 59, along with arrows indicating the steps of the addition process.

Instructions: Review arrow construction in Lesson 9. *Reminder:* In braille, identifiers for nonspatial itemized material must all begin on a new line in cell 1.

In the sentence at the end of this practice, assume that all vectors in the document are shown using that particular arrow notation. Show the proper way to omit the vector arrows in the transcription. Include the required transcriber's note after the topic heading.

PRACTICE 12A

Here are two modified arrows: $x \xrightarrow{g} y \xrightarrow{f} z$

Arrows as Modifiers

1. \overleftarrow{F}
2. \overleftarrow{AB}
3. \overleftarrow{CD}
4. $\overleftrightarrow{OB} \cup \overleftrightarrow{OC}$
5. \overleftrightarrow{EF}
6. \overleftarrow{T}
7. $\overleftrightarrow{XZ} \parallel \overleftrightarrow{RS}$
8. $\overleftrightarrow{AB} + \overleftrightarrow{CD}$

Vector Addition

\mathbb{R} equals \overrightarrow{OP} equals \overrightarrow{OM} plus \overrightarrow{MC} plus \overrightarrow{CP} .

Instructions: Treat the three examples of unit vectors in problem #2 as displayed mathematical material.

PRACTICE 12B

Carets and Bars as Modifiers

1. Unit vectors can be denoted with normal vector notation, \mathbf{u} or \vec{u} , or with standard unit vector notation, $\hat{\mathbf{u}}$, spoken "u-hat".
2. Unit vectors in various coordinate systems use Greek and English letters.

Cartesian coordinate system: $\hat{\mathbf{x}}, \hat{\mathbf{y}}, \hat{\mathbf{z}}$

Cylindrical coordinate system: $\hat{\rho}, \hat{\phi}, \hat{\mathbf{z}}$

Spherical coordinate system: $\hat{\mathbf{r}}, \hat{\theta}, \hat{\phi}$

3. $1.142857\overline{142857}$

4. $\frac{7}{15} = .4\overline{6}$

5. $2 \cdot 3 = \overline{2} \cdot 3 = \overline{2 \cdot 3}$

6. $\overline{PQ}, \overline{x'}, \overline{R''S''}$

7. $\overline{s}, \overline{a}, \overline{m}'$

8. $m\overline{BC} = a$

9. $\overline{C} = 100 \times 1000$

10. $F = 2\pi\overline{r}l$

11. $P(\overline{a + bi}) = \overline{0} = 0$

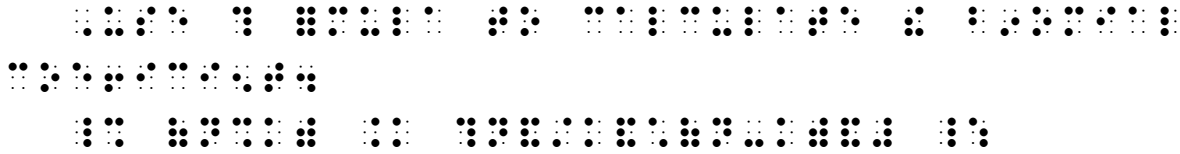
12. $\hat{x}_i = 0.5(\overline{x}_i + \underline{x}_i)$

13. $3.141\underline{59}$

Example 12-17

Use this formula to calculate the binomial coefficient.

$$\binom{n}{k} = \frac{n!}{k! \cdot (n-k)!}$$



PRACTICE 12C

1. In Figure 7.3, if $\widehat{AB} = \widehat{CD}$ in circle O, then $\angle AOB = \angle BOC$.
2. $x \stackrel{?}{=} y$ means "does x equal y ?"
3. $\sum_{d|n}$ (where $d|n$ means " d divides n ").
4. $\binom{t}{p} = R_t^p$
5. $\binom{n}{k} = \binom{n-1}{k-1} + \binom{n-1}{k}$ for all integers $n \geq 0$.
6. Does (\tilde{x}, \tilde{y}) mean \tilde{x} and \tilde{y} ?
7. More modified expressions:
 - a. $.249\grave{9}$
 - b. $2.431\grave{3}\grave{1}$
 - c. $\acute{x}\grave{y} - \grave{y}\acute{x}$
 - d. $\grave{a} + \grave{a} = ?$
 - e. $f \rightarrow \tilde{f}$
 - f. $\widehat{x+y}$

$$\gg \overline{OD^2} + \overline{OP^2}$$



The first dot 5 begins the first modified expression. The second dot 5 is a baseline indicator following the first superscript "2". Similarly, the third dot 5 begins the second modified expression and the fourth dot 5 is a baseline indicator following the second superscript.

$$\gg \overline{x_1} \quad \dots$$

You may wish to review Section 6.11 regarding nonuse of the subscript indicator.

- a. **Binomial Coefficient.** Although a binomial coefficient is not technically a modified expression, notice how this rule applies.

$$\gg \begin{pmatrix} a_x \\ b_y \end{pmatrix} \quad \dots$$

The baseline indicator precedes the "directly under" indicator. This keeps that indicator on the same level of writing as the letters "a" and "b".

PRACTICE 12E

Superscripts and Subscripts

- A) $\overline{AB}^2 + \overline{BC}^2$
- B) $\overline{A} = [\overline{a_i}]$
- C) $\sqrt{\overline{\dot{x}^2} + \overline{\dot{y}^2}}$
- D) \underline{Z}°
- E) If $\overline{a_1} = 72$, find $\overline{a_7}$.
- F) Draw $\overline{P_1P_2}$ if P_1 is the point (1, 3) and P_2 is the point (2, -1).
- G) $(\overline{3^{-1}}) \in P$
- H) $\overline{x_1} + \overline{y_1}$

Modified Signs of Comparison

12.11 Definition

A modified sign of comparison consists of a simple sign of comparison, such as the equals sign or the tilde, modified by a caret, dot, triangle, question mark, vertical bar, or any symbol except another sign of comparison.

When a simple sign of comparison occurs above or below another simple sign of comparison the combination is transcribed as a sign of comparison compounded vertically. See Section 5.8 for a review of that construction. Note that many of those signs are printed with a single horizontal line "bar over" or "bar under". For example, "bar over greater than, inclusion with bar under, bar over single tilde, logical sum with bar under," etc. These signs are not to be misinterpreted as a horizontal bar modifying a sign of comparison.

12.12 Transcription

A modified sign of comparison as defined above is transcribed in accordance with the five-step rule for modified expressions.

In addition to the caret and inverted caret seen earlier in this lesson, you may also encounter a left- or right-pointing caret in a modified sign of comparison. Do not confuse these two symbols with the "less than" and "greater than" comparison signs. Ask an expert if context does not clarify the identity of this symbol.

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	Left-Pointing Caret	<
⠡⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	Right-Pointing Caret	>

The following list contains the modified equals signs most commonly used.

Modified Equals Sign		
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	Caret Over Equals Sign	≐
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	Caret Under Equals Sign	≑
	("is projective to")	^
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	Inverted Caret Over Equals Sign	≒
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	Left-Pointing Caret Over Equals Sign	≓
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	Right-Pointing Caret Over Equals Sign	≔

$$\gg \sum_{\substack{i, j, k \\ i < j < k}}$$



Analysis: The Sigma is modified directly under with letters i, j, k . That, in turn, is modified directly under with the expression i < j < k . Review the rules regarding use of the English-letter indicator in Lesson 3. An English-letter indicator is needed for the first letter "j" because it is a "single letter" according to the definition in the Nemeth Code. The other letters are either touching indicators or are preceded or followed by a sign of comparison, so an English-letter indicator is not needed.

12.13.1 Parallel Horizontal Bars. When two or more parallel horizontal bars are the same length and apply to exactly the same expression, they are treated as a single modifier. In such cases, the directly-over or the directly-under indicator is used only once, and the symbol for the bar is used as many times as necessary to correspond to the print text.

$$\gg \overline{9} \quad \dots$$

$$\gg (\overline{A}) \quad \dots$$

$$\gg \underline{x} \quad \dots$$

Attention: Two parallel horizontal bars must not be misinterpreted as the equals sign, and three parallel horizontal bars must not be misinterpreted as the identity sign. The symbol's meaning can be determined by reading the surrounding text for context. See Section 5.8 ("Signs of Comparison Compounded Vertically") to review equals sign printed above or below a sign of comparison.

12.14 Individual Modifiers

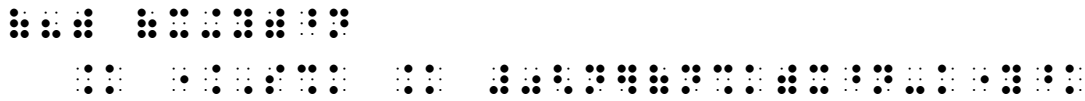
When two or more modifiers do not apply to exactly the same symbols but cover different portions of the same expression, the longer modification encloses the entire modified expression. Within the long expression, each inner expression is modified individually.

$$\gg \overline{\underline{x} \times \underline{x}} \quad \dots$$

Analysis: In the simulated braille below, the longer modification indicators and symbols are highlighted; the inner modified expressions are underlined.



$$(8) \quad (x + y)^n = \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^k$$



This is a linked expression where $(x + y)^n$ is the anchor and $= \sum_{k=0}^n \binom{n}{k} x^{n-k} y^k$ is the link. Recall from Lesson 8 that when a linked expression will not fit on one braille line, start a runover line with the link. The equals sign within the modification is not a suitable division site because the components of an expression modified according to the five-step rule should not be divided between lines. (See [12.2](#).)

PRACTICE 12H

Expressions with More Than One Modifier

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. $\overline{\overline{9 \cdot 3}} = \overline{\overline{9 \cdot 3}}$ | 5. $\overline{\overline{x_a + y^n}}$ |
| 2. $\overline{\overline{A^n}}$ | 6. $\overline{\overline{N}}$ |
| 3. $\overline{\overline{A \cap B \cap C}}$ | 7. $\sum_{i=1}^k \sum_{j=1}^k$ |
| 4. $\overline{\overline{a_n + b_p}}$ | 8. $\prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq k}}^n$ |

Format

12.16 Formal Proof [NC Rule 26.7]

A proof is a valid argument that establishes the truth of a mathematical statement. It is often introduced by a heading such as *Theorem*, *Proposition*, or *Lemma*. A progressive sequence of statements leads to the conclusion. In a formal proof, every step of the argument is shown and each step is supported by a definition or by a previously proven statement.

Lesson 11 explained how to transcribe a mathematical statement. Those guidelines are summarized in steps a-c, below, in the context of a proof.

- a. A blank line precedes the beginning of the proof.
- b. *Heading*: The heading can be formatted as a paragraph heading or as a cell-5 or cell-7 heading, at the transcriber's discretion. Review Section 11.38.b for details.
- c. *Statement*: Continue with the text, using normal (3-1) paragraph style. When the statement is printed in a variant typeform and the proof follows, in regular type, it is recommended that the typeform be preserved for the statement in order to retain distinction.
- d. *Auxiliary Captions*: Paragraph headings such as Given, Hypothesis, Prove, or Conclusion begin in cell 3, without a blank line before the paragraph. Associated material follows the caption. Runovers go in cell 1.
- e. *Two-Column Proof*: See [12.16.1](#), below.
- f. *End of Proof Icon*: See [12.16.2](#), below.
- g. When the proof is complete, insert a blank line before continuing with the text.

12.16.1 Two-Column Proof. When a formal proof is presented by numbered steps printed in two columns, the layout is changed as follows.

- a. If there is a caption such as "Proof", follow the same pattern established in [step d](#), above ("Auxiliary Captions").
- b. The column format is changed to a list in braille. A transcriber's note must call attention to the change in format. See [step c](#), below, for a sample transcriber's note.

A blank line is inserted before the list. If there are column headings, such as "Statement" and "Reason", see [step c](#), below. Each step begins in cell 1, starting with the first item from the left column. Runovers are in cell 3. The related item from the right column begins in cell 1 on the next line, with runovers in cell 3.

Each item must be labeled with an identifier as described below.

Example 12-21

(Assume the required transcriber's note regarding the two-column proof appears on the Transcriber's Notes page.)

THEOREM 2. All right angles are equal.

Given: $\angle ABC$ and $\angle DEF$ are right angles.

Prove: $\angle ABC$ equals $\angle DEF$.

<i>Statements</i>	<i>Reasons</i>
1. $\angle ABC$ and $\angle DEF$ are right angles.	1. Given.
2. $\angle ABC = 90^\circ$, $\angle DEF = 90^\circ$.	2. A right angle contains 90 degrees.
3. $\angle ABC = \angle DEF$.	3. Transitivity postulate. ■

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Line 7: A blank line precedes the proof. Box lines are not required.

Line 8: The heading is printed in capital letters and also in a nonregular typeface (boldface).

When a paragraph heading is printed in capital letters, typeform is disregarded.

Lines 8-9: The paragraph style is 3-1. Distinctive typeform (boldface) is retained in the statement.

Lines 10-11 and 12-13: Each auxiliary caption follows print regarding typeform (italics, in this example), and uses a 3-1 paragraph style.

Line 14: A blank line precedes the list.

Lines 15-22: Each item in the 2-column proof begins in cell 1, with runovers in cell 3. Identifying letters S and R are combined with each step number.

Line 22: A dark square is printed in the right margin to mark the end of the proof. The "qed" icon is transcribed.

Line 23: A blank line follows the proof.

PRACTICE 12I

Instructions: Create a Transcriber's Notes page that might appear in a volume which contains the proof shown in Practice 12J. A statement citing the code book is required in every volume that uses Nemeth. In the first paragraph, state the title and edition of the Nemeth Code as well as any BANA updates. Something like this:

Mathematical content is transcribed according to *The Nemeth Braille Code for Mathematics and Science Notation, 2022*.

In the second paragraph, explain the step-number format as described in 12.16.1.c. Refer to *Braille Formats* for further guidelines regarding the structure of a Transcriber's Notes page.

PRACTICE 12J

Given: $3x = 7 - \frac{1}{2}x$

To Prove: $x = 2$

STEP	REASON
1. $3x = 7 - \frac{1}{2}x$	1. GIVEN
2. $6x = 14 - x$	2. Multiplication Property
3. $7x = 14$	3. Addition Property
4. $x = 2$	4. Division Property

For further practice, see Appendix A—Reading Practice.

EXERCISE 12

Prepare Exercise 12 for your grader.

