

## LESSON 4

- MORE ABOUT LETTERS
  - Variables
  - Roman Numerals
  - Nondecimal Bases
- OTHER ALPHABETS
- ENCLOSED LISTS
- MORE ABOUT ENGLISH LETTERS
- MORE ABOUT ABBREVIATIONS
- CODE SWITCHING, cont.

### *Format*

- Keep Together—Abbreviation
- Keep Together—Enclosed List

### *Answers to Practice Material*

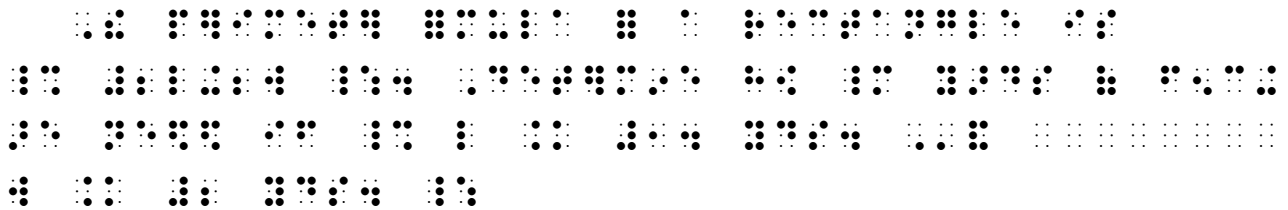
## LESSON PREVIEW

A closer look at letters used as variables. How to tell if a letter is a variable or an abbreviation. Treatment of Roman numerals. Treatment of other mathematical letter combinations as well as sequences of unspaced letters. How to handle letters used as numerals in nondecimal bases. German, Greek, Hebrew, and Russian letters used in mathematical notation. A look at mathematical constants. Rules regarding the "enclosed list". More rules about English letters and about abbreviations. Code switching considerations with headings.



*Example 4-3*

The perimeter formula for a rectangle is  $2l + 2w$ . Determine how many yards of fencing are needed if  $l = 14$  yds. and  $w = 2$  yds.

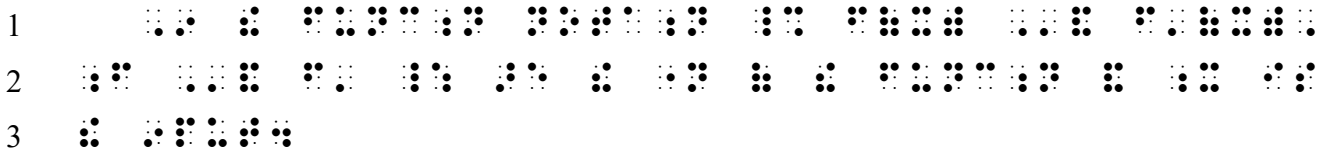


*l and w are variables.*

- 4.1.3 **Code Switching Considerations.** As seen in Lesson 3, a freestanding unmodified mathematical letter may be transcribed in UEB or Nemeth, depending on the surrounding material. This avoids excessive code switching. Judicious use of the single-word switch indicator will provide smoother reading when a variable or other mathematical letter is part of a longer phrase.

*Example 4-4*

In the function notation  $f(x)$  and  $f'(x)$ ,  $f$  and  $f'$  are the name of the function and  $x$  is the input.



*Line 2: "Single letter" f is transcribed inside the Nemeth switches; the single-word switch indicator is used for the word "and". Variable "x" is transcribed in UEB because the surrounding text is in UEB.*

**PRACTICE 4A**

1. Express  $y$  in terms of  $x$  if  $2x - 3y = 12$ .
2. If  $A = l \times l$ , what is the length ( $l$ ) of a side in inches if the area ( $A$ ) of a square is 7.3 sq.ft.?
3. It is much easier to remember  $A = lw$  (Area = length  $\times$  width) than it is to remember  $B = jt$  when trying to figure out how much carpet to buy for the living room.
4. Determine the area  $A$  of trapezoid T with upper base  $a = 3$  in., lower base  $b = 6$  in., and height  $h = 13$  in.









## ***Review: Nonuse of the English-letter Indicator***

In Nemeth, the English-letter indicator is not used with a Roman numeral in the following circumstances.

- i. When a Roman numeral consists of two or more unspaced capitalized letters in regular type, no English-letter indicator is used.

➤ II III VIII XV    ⠠⠠⠠⠠    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

- ii. When a Roman numeral immediately precedes or follows a sign of comparison, no English-letter indicator is used.

➤ X = 10    ⠠⠠    ⠠⠠    ⠠⠠⠠⠠

➤ 1000 = M    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠    ⠠⠠    ⠠⠠

- iii. When a Roman numeral is in an expression consisting of a sequence of unspaced mathematical symbols, no English-letter indicator is used.

➤ ix - v = iv    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠    ⠠⠠    ⠠⠠

- iv. When a Roman numeral is entirely enclosed between grouping signs, no English-letter indicator is used.

➤ (ii)    ⠠⠠⠠⠠

- v. When a Roman numeral is modified, no English-letter indicator is used.

➤ I'    ⠠⠠⠠

*Roman numerals starting with 5,000 include a line over the numeral in print.  
This notation will be discussed in Lesson 12.*

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### **PRACTICE 4B**

- i. Triangle ABC in Quadrant IV is reflected in Quadrant III as Triangle A'B'C'.
- ii.  $iv + vi = x$
- iii.  $X = 10$ ,  $L = 50$ ,  $C = 100$ , and  $D = 500$ .
- iv. Review items v and vi.
- v. Explain why  $MC = 1100$ , but  $CM = 900$ .
- vi. Use Formulas I' and III' to prove the statement.







## OTHER ALPHABETS

### 4.10 Alphabetic Indicators

The language of mathematics uses letters from more than just the English alphabet. Specific provision is made in the Nemeth Code for the transcription of the letters of the German, Greek, Hebrew, and Russian (Cyrillic) alphabets. Each alphabet has a unique alphabetic indicator.

4.10.1 **Code Switching and Use of Letter Indicators.** Recall that switching to Nemeth to transcribe an English letter is not always required, and that the Nemeth English-letter indicator may be omitted in certain circumstances. In contrast, an alphabetic indicator is always required to identify a letter from the German, Greek, Hebrew, or Russian alphabets and a switch to Nemeth is always required for such letters even if UEB has a symbol for the letter.

4.10.2 **Capitalization and Punctuation.** When a letter from any alphabet is capitalized, the capitalization indicator (dot 6) is placed between the alphabetic indicator and the letter as illustrated in [4.11](#). Letters are individually capitalized—the effect of the capitalization indicator extends only to the letter which follows it.

In a Nemeth transcription, letters from the German, Greek, Hebrew, and Russian alphabets are mathematical symbols and so are punctuated mathematically when the punctuation falls within the Nemeth switches.

Certain letters have unique mathematical applications. If you are unsure of a letter, find an expert who can identify it. Do not guess.

### 4.11 The Greek Alphabet

Many letters from the Greek alphabet are used in mathematics and science. The following indicator identifies a letter as being from the Greek alphabet.

$\text{⠠}$ Greek-letter Indicator (standard form)
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This symbol is read as the Greek-letter indicator only when immediately followed by a letter or by the capitalization indicator and a letter. Note that the order of indicators is different from UEB. Here is the (capitalized) Greek letter Delta as transcribed in Nemeth.

$\text{⠠⠠}$   $\Delta$   $\text{⠠⠠⠠}$

The Nemeth table of Greek letters is reproduced on the next page.

## Greek Alphabet Table

<u>Name of letter</u>	<u>Regular uncapitalized</u>	<u>Regular capitalized</u>	<u>Alternative form</u>
alpha	$\alpha$ ⠠⠠⠠	A ⠠⠠⠠⠠	$\alpha$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠
beta	$\beta$ ⠠⠠⠠	B ⠠⠠⠠⠠	$\beta$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠
gamma	$\gamma$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Γ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
delta	$\delta$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Δ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
epsilon	$\epsilon$ ⠠⠠⠠	E ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
zeta	$\zeta$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Z ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
eta	$\eta$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	H ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
theta	$\theta$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Θ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	$\vartheta$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠
iota	$\iota$ ⠠⠠⠠	I ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
kappa	$\kappa$ ⠠⠠⠠	K ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
lambda	$\lambda$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Λ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
mu	$\mu$ ⠠⠠⠠	M ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
nu	$\nu$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	N ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
xi	$\xi$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Ξ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
omicron	$o$ ⠠⠠⠠	O ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
pi	$\pi$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Π ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
rho	$\rho$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	P ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
sigma	$\sigma$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Σ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	$\varsigma$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠
tau	$\tau$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	T ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
upsilon	$\upsilon$ ⠠⠠⠠	Υ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
phi	$\phi$ ⠠⠠⠠	Φ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	$\varphi$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠
chi	$\chi$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	X ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
psi	$\psi$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Ψ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
omega	$\omega$ ⠠⠠⠠⠠	Ω ⠠⠠⠠⠠	
sampi	Ϡ ⠠⠠⠠		
stigma	Ϛ ⠠⠠⠠		
vau	Ϝ ⠠⠠⠠		
koph (qoph)	Ϟ ⠠⠠⠠		

4.11.1 **Code Switching with Greek Letters.** Even though the uncapitalized form of the Greek letters in Nemeth is identical to the uncapitalized form in UEB, you must switch to Nemeth when a Greek letter appears in a Nemeth transcription, even within the narrative. As with English letters, lowercase Greek letters are often printed in italics uniformly throughout a technical document or





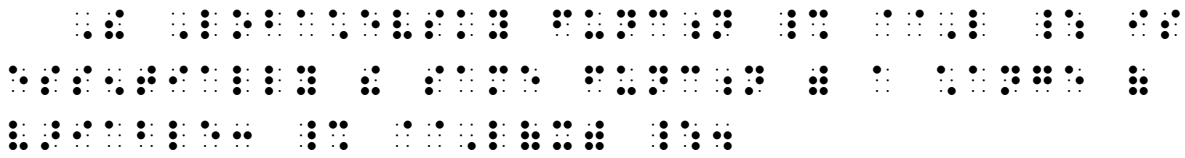






Example 4-24

The Lobachevsky function  $\mathcal{L}$  is essentially the same function with a change of variable:  $\mathcal{L}(x)$ .



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*Note:* The Russian alphabet table in *World Braille Usage* shows how to transcribe the Cyrillic letters in sentence 2: dots 1, 12, 2456, 1245, 145, 15, 245, 1356, 24, and 13.

**PRACTICE 4E**

- 1) Be sure to differentiate between the Cyrillic letters "ell" Л and "Ell" Л and the Greek letters "pi" π and "Pi" Π.
- 2) The first ten uncapitalized Cyrillic letters are: ah а, beh б, veh в, gheh г, deh д, yeh е, zheh ж, zeh з, ee и, and kah к.

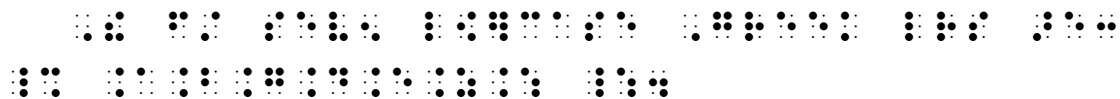
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**4.15 A Sequence of Unspaced Letters**

- a. **Non-English Letters.** The effect of an alphabetic indicator extends only to the letter which follows it. Thus, in a sequence of unspaced letters from non-English-letter alphabets, the appropriate alphabetic indicator is used before each letter.

Example 4-25

The first seven lowercase Greek letters are:  $\alpha\beta\gamma\delta\epsilon\zeta\eta$ .



- b. **English Letters.** An English letter in regular type which appears in an unspaced sequence of terms does not require a letter indicator. Recall that mathematical letters which are consistently *printed* in italics are transcribed in regular type.

Example 4-26

$C = 2\pi r$  is the formula for the circumference of a circle.





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Linage and judicious placement of code switches is the challenge in this practice. After transcribing each sentence, write down your reasons for switching where you did. Then compare your decisions to the answer key and commentary at the end of the lesson.

### PRACTICE 4F

1. Variables  $a$  and  $b$  are inversely related.
2. There exists a constant  $N$  such that no bit of  $\Omega$  after the  $N$ th can be proven to be 1 or 0.
3. Randall replied, " $12 - n, 11 - n, 10 - n \dots$  which is correct?"
4. " $12 - n, 11 - n, 10 - n, \dots$ "
5. Which is correct: " $4x + 3y$ ," " $3x + 4y$ ," or " $4x + 4y$ "?
6. What is the remainder when 101 is divided by 3? ( $101 \div 3$ )
7. The result is  $(ax + by)(cx + dy)$ , where all components are real.
8.  $\Delta x$  means "the change in  $x$ " and  $\Delta y$  means "the change in  $y$ ". When  $x$  increases by  $\Delta x$ ,  $y$  increases by  $\Delta y$  as expressed in the equation  $y = \Delta y = f(x + \Delta x)$ .
9. ( $4x + 3y$  is the denominator.)

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### ENCLOSED LISTS

#### 4.17 Special Case—Definition of an "Enclosed List"

Special provision is made for the transcription of a sequence of mathematical items enclosed within grouping signs. All of the following must be true in order to apply this rule.

- i. The sequence must begin and end with a sign of grouping. The grouping signs do not have to be of the same kind.
- ii. The list must have at least two items and the items must be separated by commas.
- iii. An item of the list may be any sign used for omission – for example, an ellipsis or a long dash.
- iv. The list cannot contain any punctuation mark other than the separating commas. (The omission ellipsis or long dash are not considered to be punctuation.)
- v. The list cannot contain any words, abbreviations, ordinal endings, or plural endings. (An exception applies when a word is an element in set notation. See [4.17.3.b.](#))
- vi. The list cannot contain a sign of comparison.









*This set does not meet the requirements of an "enclosed list" because it contains a word that is not an element of the set. Numeric indicators are required before each number that is preceded by a space.*

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*Instructions:* First determine if each item is or is not an enclosed list. Write YES if the item is an enclosed list and NO if it is not. Then transcribe the YES items in Nemeth.

### PRACTICE 4G

1.  $\{a, b, c, d\}$
  2.  $(-1, -2, -3)$
  3.  $(h \text{ ft}, k \text{ in})$
  4.  $(ab, cd, ef)$
  5.  $1, i, -1, -i$
  6.  $(1, i, 2, ii)$
  7.  $(1\text{st}, 2\text{nd}, 3\text{rd})$
  8.  $(A, A', B, B', C)$
  9.  $\{\_, .13, .15, .17, \_\}$
  10.  $(1 + h, 2 + k, 0)$
  11.  $(x = 1, 2, \dots, 10)$
  12.  $(a, b]$
  13.  $(1 \ 2 \ 3)$
  14.  $[0, 1]$
  15.  $(u, v; x, y)$
  16.  $\{(Denver, 19), (Utah, 27), (Minnesota, 24), (San Antonio, 28)\}$
  17.  $(a, b, \dots)$
  18.  $(x + 1, x + 2, ?, ?, x + 5)$
  19.  $\langle -1, 0]$
  20.  $(2, 4, 6, \_, 10)$
  21.  $(0, a, 1, b, 2)$
  22.  $\{1\text{'s}, 2\text{'s}, 3\text{'s}\}$
  23.  $\{1, 2, \text{and } 3\}$
-



## MORE ABOUT ENGLISH LETTERS

### 4.18 An English Letter Touching Only One Grouping Symbol

In Lesson 3, you learned that the English-letter indicator is not needed when a "single letter" is enclosed between mathematical grouping symbols.

However, when a "single letter" is in direct contact with only one grouping sign, and the letter is not an item in an enclosed list as defined above, rules regarding the English-letter indicator are applied as though the grouping sign was not present.

#### Example 4-47

$(k = 1, 2, \dots, n)$ .

*Without the left parenthesis, the letter  $k$  would not need an English-letter indicator because it is followed by an equals sign. Without the right parenthesis, the letter  $n$  would need an English-letter indicator because it is preceded by a space and followed by punctuation.*

#### Example 4-48

Consider the set  $\{m \text{ and } n\}$ .

*Set notation is mathematical and so a switch to Nemeth is required. Without the left brace, the letter  $m$  would need an English-letter indicator because it is preceded and followed by a space. Without the right brace, the letter  $n$  would need an English-letter indicator because it is preceded by a space and followed by punctuation.*

#### Example 4-49

If two events are mutually exclusive we write  $P(A \text{ AND } B) = 0$  where  $P(A \text{ AND } B)$  means "the probability of  $A$  and  $B$  occurring at the same time".

1            
  
2 
  
3 
  
4

*Line 2: Without the left parenthesis, the letter  $A$  would not need an English-letter indicator because it immediately follows the letter  $P$ . Without the right parenthesis, the letter  $B$  would not need an English-letter indicator because it is followed by a comparison sign.*

Line 3: Without the left parenthesis, the letter A would not need an English-letter indicator because it immediately follows the letter P. Without the right parenthesis, the letter B would need an English-letter indicator because it is preceded and followed by a space.  
 Line 4: Letters A and B follow the rules of UEB in the narrative.

- a. **Roman Numerals.** The same rule applies to a Roman numeral that is in direct contact with only an opening or closing grouping sign. The English-letter indicator is used or is not used as though the grouping sign was absent. The following example illustrates Roman numerals used as identifiers, assuming uninterrupted mathematical context.

➤ i) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠  
 ➤ iv) ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠  
 ➤ v) ⠠⠠⠠⠠

- b. **Modified Grouping Sign.** If the grouping sign includes a prime or other modifying symbol, the English-letter indicator is not used with the single English letter that touches the grouping symbol.

➤ t]' ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Example 4-50

t]' and v]' have unique meaning.

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

**4.19 English Letters with Plural, Possessive, or Ordinal Endings**

When a "single letter" has a plural, possessive, or ordinal ending, in mathematical context the English-letter indicator rules of the Nemeth Code are applied as though such endings were not present. The following examples illustrate proper use of the English-letter indicator, assuming mathematical context. Note that the expressions are punctuated mathematically. The presence of a plural, possessive, or ordinal ending does not change the fact that the punctuation mode is mathematical.

- a. Plural

➤ ps,qs,rs ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Think: p, q, r – English-letter indicator is required

➤ Xs,Ys,Zs ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Think: X, Y, Z – English-letter indicator is required

b. Possessive

*Reminders:* A punctuation indicator is required before an apostrophe; otherwise dot 3 is read as a prime sign.

➤  $p's, q's, r's$  ⠠⠏⠛⠛⠠⠏⠗⠛⠛⠠⠗⠛⠛

*Think: p, q, r – English-letter indicator is required*

➤  $X's, Y's, Z's$  ⠠⠭⠛⠛⠠⠭⠗⠛⠛⠠⠭⠗⠛⠛⠠⠭⠗⠛⠛

*Think: X, Y, Z – English-letter indicator is required*

c. Ordinal

➤  $nth, 2nth$  ⠠⠏⠏⠏⠏⠏⠏⠠⠒⠏⠏⠏

*Think: n – English-letter indicator is required; 2n – English-letter indicator is not required*

d. Letter Combinations

*Reminder:* Letter combinations require a switch to Nemeth but no English-letter indicator is needed. Capital letters are individually capitalized.

➤  $ABs$  and  $GHs$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

➤  $AB's$  and  $GH's$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

➤  $ab's$  and  $gh's$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

➤  $abth$  and  $jkth$  ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

*Instructions:* Stay in Nemeth to transcribe items C) and E).

**PRACTICE 4H**

A) Find all  $ABs$ ,  $CDs$ , and  $EFs$ ; draw  $XYZs$ .

B) Find all  $AB's$ ,  $CD's$ , and  $EF's$ ; draw  $XYZ's$ .

C) (1st, 2nd, ... nth, ... 49th)

D) Does  $|a| \times |b| = |ab|$ ?

E) If  $Q$ , then  $\{[NOT-P] OR P\}$ .



















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