

## Lesson 16

### ***Modified Letters, More on Quotation Marks, Foreign Words in English Text, Spanish Punctuation, Greek Letters, Old and Middle English, More on Translation Software***

#### **16.1 Modifiers [UEB §4.2]**

Modifiers are used to show accented letters or diacritics in braille. Following is a list of some commonly used modifiers. Refer to §4.2 and §4.3 of the *Rules of Unified English Braille Second Edition 2013* for a complete list of available modifiers, including transcriber-defined modifiers.

Braille Symbol	Meaning	Example
⠠⠨	breve above following letter	Û ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨
⠠⠨⠠	macron above following letter	Ū ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨
⠠⠨⠠⠨	cedilla below following letter	ç ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨
⠠⠨⠠⠨	grave accent above following letter	à ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨
⠠⠨⠠⠨	circumflex above following letter	ô ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨
⠠⠨⠠⠨	tilde above following letter	ñ ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨
⠠⠨⠠⠨	umlaut or diaeresis above following letter	ü ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨
⠠⠨⠠⠨	Ligature indicator	æ ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨
⠠⠨⠠⠨	acute accent above following letter	é ⠠⠨⠠⠨⠠⠨

**16.1a Placement.** With the exception of the ligature, place the modifier immediately before the letter to which it applies. Example:

garçon    ⠠⠗⠁⠗⠒⠠⠒⠠⠒⠠⠒⠠  
São Paulo    ⠠⠎⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Place the ligature indicator between two letters which are shown joined together in print. Example:

hors-d'œuvres    ⠠⠏⠠⠒⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

**16.1b Capitalization.** If a modified letter is capitalized, place the capital letter indicator before the modifier. Note that modifiers are the only braille signs that can be placed between a capital indicator and the letter or word to which it applies. Example:

L'Étoile du Nord    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Capitalized word mode remains in effect through modified letters. Example:

LINDSTRÖM    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

**16.1c With Contractions.** A contraction should not be used if any of its letters include modified letters. Examples:

fiancé    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠  
blessèd    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠  
reënforce    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠  
coéducation    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

**16.1d Applied to More Than One Letter.** If a modifier applies to more than one consecutive letter, enclose the affected letters in *braille grouping indicators*. The opening braille grouping indicator is dots 126 (⠠), and the closing braille grouping indicator is dots 345 (⠞). Note that these are the same dot configurations as the contractions for *gh* and *ar*, but since no contraction can immediately follow a modifier, a grade 1 indicator is not required to show that these are grouping indicators rather than contractions. Example:

Sē you sōn.    ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠   ⠠⠠   ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

## 16.2 More On Quotation Marks [UEB §7.6, October 2019 Update]

**16.2a Primary Quotation Marks.** In Lesson Three, you learned the symbols for the opening and closing double and single quotation marks. If the primary (outer) quotation marks in the text are not the typical double quotation marks, it is permissible to exchange the double and single quotation marks, so that the primary quotation marks are brailled using the one-cell symbol. Explain the change on a Transcriber's Notes Page (to be studied in Lesson 19). Example:

'Mother said "We'll see".'

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

**16.2b Other Quotation Marks.** In addition to the quotation marks studied in Lesson Three, other types of print quotation marks can be shown in braille:

- «    ⠠⠠⠠   left-pointing double angle quotation mark
- »    ⠠⠠⠠   right-pointing double angle quotation mark
- "    ⠠⠠⠠   nondirectional double quotation mark
- '    ⠠⠠   nondirectional single quotation mark

Follow print for use of the double angle quotes, and do not exchange them with other symbols if they are used as the primary quotation marks. Example:

We shall sing 'Reel à Bouche'.»

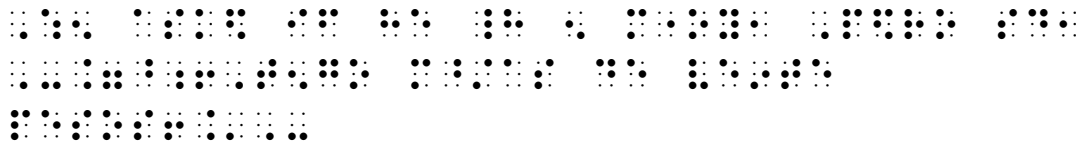
⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠   ⠠⠠   ⠠⠠⠠   ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠   ⠠⠠⠠⠠   ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠







When asked if he had enough money, Pedro said, — ¡*Tengo más de veinte pesos!* —



### Drill 38

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

1. The attractive divorcée and her distingué protégé created a sensation at the lawn fête.
2. Louis XIV stated the position of all dictators when he said, "*L'état c'est moi.*"
3. The François family with their entire ménage had already departed for Florida.
4. 'And opening his mouth he taught them saying, "Blessèd are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. . . ." '
5. The newest trend in German politics is Parteiverdrossenheit, or PV for short.
6. "*Vive la France!*" defiantly shouted the young patriot as he was led off to face the firing squad.
7. José de San Martín was one of the leading liberators of South America.
8. Signorina Puccini is auditioning with the Metropolitan Opera Company.
9. Étienne professed to be *enchanté* to meet *la belle Mademoiselle Andersen*.
10. The original German title of Erich Remarque's famous book *All Quiet on the Western Front* was *Im Westen Nichts Neues*.
11. Egypt is fine, but if we have to go to Port Said again, we're finished — al fine!
12. My family comes from a small town in Italy called Giovanni a Piro.

13. We can keep this little cherub here, but that little enfant terrible will have to go home.
14. "*E molto bene di ritornare a casa,*" said the old woman as she stepped off the train.
15. "When will you be back?" called his comrades as Poncho rode off in the general direction of the border, and his reply was — *¿Quién sabe? —*

## 16.4 Greek Alphabet [UEB §4.5]

### Lower Case Greek Alphabet

Braille	Print	Meaning	Braille	Print	Meaning
⠠⠁	α	alpha	⠠⠧	ν	nu
⠠⠃	β	beta	⠠⠭	ξ	xi
⠠⠎	γ	gamma	⠠⠞	ο	omicron
⠠⠔	δ	delta	⠠⠠	π	pi
⠠⠑	ε	epsilon	⠠⠗	ρ	rho
⠠⠵	ζ	zeta	⠠⠎	ς or σ	sigma
⠠⠡	η	eta	⠠⠞	τ	tau
⠠⠢	θ	theta	⠠⠤	υ	upsilon
⠠⠠	ι	iota	⠠⠠	φ	phi
⠠⠎	κ	kappa	⠠⠭	χ	chi
⠠⠎	λ	lambda	⠠⠱	ψ	psi
⠠⠤	μ	mu	⠠⠠	ω	omega





variations in spelling in archaic forms of the language to ensure appropriate use of contractions.

### Drill 39

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

1. The circumference of a circle is equal to  $\pi \times d$ .
2. "*Écoutez bien,*" said Professor Moreau, as he launched into his lecture.
3. *The Chimbley Sweep* is sung by the folk-rock group, The Decemberists.
4. "Geh!" she said. "*Mach schnell!*"
5. During his senior year at college ('90-91) he lived in the ΠΚΑ house.
6. In music, *diminuendo* means to play softer by degrees.
7. ΔΕΛΦΟΙ (Delphi) was called the navel of the earth.
8. Goody Thatcher hoped to see her grandchildren become "polished stons" in the church. "Them i do hertili inbrace," she wrote.
9. The Greek letters  $O$  and  $\Omega$  are pronounced the same.

## 16.6 More On Braille translation Software

**16.6a Quotation Marks and Apostrophes.** Sometimes, braille translation software fails to distinguish properly the difference between single quotation marks and apostrophes, and depending upon the methods used to create the original print document, other problems with quotation marks may occur. The transcriber must pay special attention to be sure that quotation marks and apostrophes are shown correctly in the braille version.

**16.6b Inserting Symbols.** Most modern word processing software includes methods for inserting symbols for modified letters and Greek letters. For accented letters, sometimes shortcut keys are provided for easy entry. Ligatured letters or Greek letters can often be found on an "Insert symbols" menu in the word processing software. Because there are a number of ways the symbols may be inserted in the original print document, it is critical to verify that the symbols have imported properly to the braille translation software and are represented

correctly in the final braille version. It is not enough simply to determine that the symbols look right in the print version.

**16.6c Styles for Languages.** Your braille translation software may include styles with names such as "Spanish" or "French". When these styles are applied, the material will translate into braille using not the methods of foreign language transcription covered in this lesson, but instead using the accented letters as shown in *World Braille Usage*. Therefore, *do not use the language styles* for foreign language material in English contexts. They are *only* appropriate for material intended for learning a language or for other language-oriented purposes as briefly discussed at the beginning of this lesson.

### EXERCISE

Prepare the following sentences for submission to the instructor. Use a 3-1 margin.

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1. "Art thou not, fatal vision, sensible to feeling as to sight? Or art thou but a dagger of the mind, a false creation, proceeding from the heat-oppressèd brain?" —Macbeth
2. He had just returned to the café after his tête-à-tête with his fiancée.
3. The new government came into power through a coup d'état but masquerades behind a façade of democracy.
4. The dénouement of the plot began when the professor crashed the party clad in tuxedo and black suède shoes and wearing a boutonnière of lilies of the valley.
5. "*Merci beaucoup*," said Jacques as I handed him the prize.
6. As the victorious French troops reëntered the city, the crowd triumphantly and spontaneously broke into the *Marseillaise*: "*Allons, enfants de la patrie! Le jour de gloire est arrivé! . . .*"
7. France was represented at Versailles by Georges Clemenceau.
8. The sign ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟΣ alerted us to the dangers of driving in the Greek mountains.
9. Jeanne d'Arc was known as the "Maid of Orléans."

10. I said, this restaurant serves all meals *table d'hôte*, not *à la carte*.
11. The note began very formally, "*Sehr geehrtes Fräulein Mary Smith: . . .*"
12. —*¡Qué bonita!*— exclaimed the handsome young gaucho as he doffed his sombrero to the lovely señorita.
13. The pin on his lapel proudly proclaimed his affiliation with ΣΧ.
14. " '69!" he said emphatically, "that was the year I was born!"
15. The first half of Julia's program closed with Chopin's *Étude in E Major*.
16. The memory of her insult still rankled in his mind ("*gros cochon*" she had called him).
17. The motto of the United States is "**E pluribus unum.**"
18. "The situation has been getting rather unhealthy," Filatov told the mass-circulation weekly *Argumenty i Fakty*.
19. I would like *Pasta e Fagioli* and a salad, please.
20. My grandfather showed me his old collection of German marks, French centimes, and Spanish pesos.
21. The Encyclopædia Britannica was first published in Edinburgh, Scotland as a 3-volume set between 1768 and 1771.
22. *Serous otitis media* is a medical term for fluid in the ear.
23. In English, there are at least five ways to pronounce the letters o-u-g-h; for example: **ought** (ô<sup>t</sup>), **tough** (tū<sup>f</sup>), **bough** (bou), **dough** (dō), **through** (thrō̄).
24. Winthrop considered his colony to be a model to others; "Wee must Consider that wee shall be as a Citye upon a hill."
25. The priest said he hoped Father hadn't had a *faithectomy*, since he hasn't seen him in church for months.

[This lesson last updated November 21, 2019]