Overview of Foreign Language Transcription



Presented by:

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NATIONAL BRAILLE ASSOCIATION

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Don't Be Afraid of Foreign Language Braille!

- We all get to a spot where we have an opportunity to try something new, where fear, doubt and anxiety enter into the mind.
- Don't let foreign language braille live in that realm for you!
- My journey into Foreign Language braille....



Foreign Language in Music Textbooks

- Composer names I encountered almost immediately.
 - Béla Bartók
 - Edgard Varèse
 - György Ligeti
 - Antonin Dvořák
 - Witold Lutosławski
- When I first got started in EBAE, there was only one method of handling these accents: a dot 4 preceding the affected letter.
- Now that we use the *Rules of UEB* as our guidebook, let's look at some of that document.

The Rules of UEB - p. 42

4.2 Modifiers

	¢	solidus (forward slash) overlay on following letter
:::::	0	horizontal stroke overlay on following letter
	័	breve above following letter
	୕	macron above following letter
•••	្វ	cedilla below following letter
<u> </u>	े	grave accent above following letter
-> :::	ి	circumflex above following letter
	8	ring (circle) above following letter
•••	័	tilde above following letter
→ :	ं	diaeresis (umlaut) above following letter
—> • • •	ఄ	acute accent above following letter
֥.:	്	caron (hacek, wedge) above following letter
		first transcriber-defined modifier on following letter
		second transcriber-defined modifier on following letter
		third transcriber-defined modifier on following letter

Back to Those Composer Names

Béla Bartók
Edgard Varèse
Antonin Dvořák
György Ligeti
Witold Lutosławski
Edgard Lutosławski



What I Discovered Next in Music Braille Transcriptions

It was decided by expert music braillists before me that when we transcribe song lyrics in a foreign language, we use the foreign language letters from the World Braille Usage document and not the UEB modifiers.



We All Have Our Own Journey Into Foreign Language Braille

- In this presentation, we'll discuss the tools you'll need to be successful in your approach to foreign language materials. Those tools are:
 - The Provisional Guidance for Transcribing Foreign Language Material in UEB (2015).
 - ▶ World Braille Usage (2013).
 - And, of course, The Rules of Unified English Braille (2013) and Braille Formats (2016).

Let's first look at the *Provisional Guidance* for Transcribing Foreign Language Materials in UEB, published 2015 by BANA

- This document primarily covers four methods used to transcribe Foreign Language Materials.
 - Method 1. UEB Accents and Contractions in Anglicized Words
 - Method 2. UEB Accented Letters in Uncontracted Words
 - Method 3. Using Foreign Language Signs for Accented Letters
 - Method 4. Using the Full Foreign Language Braille Code for the specific language.
 - It also has sections discussing Languages in Non-Roman Scripts, Old English, Standard Usage for Educational Materials, and References for Foreign Language Braille Codes.

The Four Methods

- The rules of Unified English Braille (UEB) allow a range of approaches for transcribing foreign language text. These methods result in braille that is appropriate for a variety of types of texts as well as for different groups of readers.
- The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) recommends four general methods that should be suitable to cover the majority of cases.
- In general, follow the Braille Formats: Principles of Print to Braille Transcription, 2016 when creating foreign language texts. Also, review Section 13: Foreign Language of The Rules of UEB, 2013.
- Let's now look at each method in detail...

Method 1. UEB Accents and Contractions in Anglicized Words

- English has adopted many words that contain accent marks. In Method 1, any foreign words or phrases that are commonly used in English and include accented letters are transcribed (<u>contracted</u>) using the standard UEB rules regarding modifiers.
- Method 1 is appropriate when encountering the occasional foreign word or short phrases, names, and titles that occur in material commonly written in English. This method is especially appropriate for readers who are not likely familiar with the special foreign language signs used in Methods 3 and 4.
- In the case of extended pieces of foreign text (e.g., a whole paragraph), it is permissible to transcribe using <u>uncontracted</u> braille, as in Method #2.

UEB Modifiers Used in the Examples Ahead

- ► Cedilla 👯 ç
- ▶ Grave accent 👫 è
- ► Circumflex : û
- ► Acute accent 👯 é
- ► Umlaut 🗄 🖶 ü



Examples of Method 1

I would like a salade niçoise and a crème brûlée please.

Thomas Mann: Joseph in Egypt (Joseph in Ägypten), 1936

Method 2. UEB Accented Letters and Uncontracted Words

- Using Method 2, it is permissible for any foreign words or phrases that include accented letters and punctuation to be transcribed into <u>uncontracted</u> braille following UEB Rule 13.2.1. This method would be appropriate for educational materials for younger students who may benefit from seeing such words without contractions.
- First, determine if the word or phrase is actually foreign. Often foreign terms will be shown in a different typeface, but a dictionary can also be consulted to see if the term is English or not. English words included in the expression should be uncontracted as well.
- Use the UEB signs and accent marks as indicated in the UEB Rulebook, Sections 4.2 and 13.5. The grade 1 indicator and code switch indicators are not used.

Modifiers Used in the Examples Ahead

Spanish acute i í



Examples of Method 2

The announcement started: Lord Byron era un poeta muy conocido.

The word "demonstrate" comes from the Latin demonstrare.

I like comer aquí en Burger King.

Method 3. Using Foreign Language Signs for Accented Letters

- In this method, follow Section 13.6 in the UEB Rulebook. The foreign language signs for accented letters are used as needed in foreign text, though all other signs (e.g., punctuation) may be in UEB. <u>Neither foreign contractions nor UEB contractions are used in foreign words, though UEB contractions are used in surrounding English words.</u>
- In the normal use of this method, UEB code switch indicators are not inserted for the accented letters. For this to be viable, the distinction between English text and foreign text needs to be sufficiently clear from the context (e.g., format or font change) so that the foreign accented letters are unlikely to be mistaken by the reader for UEB contractions or other signs. In cases where there is likely to be confusion, UEB code switch indicators can be used at that specific point. However, this should be regarded as the exception when using this method.
- ► For the curious, the code switch indicators (used to enclose non-UEB material) are 🗄 🗄 for opening and 🗄 🗄 🗯 for closing.

- Method 3 is appropriate for the foreign text in foreign language school textbooks, foreign language school assessments, foreign language grammar books and phrase books, bilingual dictionaries (e.g., English/French), etc. It may also be appropriate for foreign language literature in which the document is written entirely in that language.
- For cases in which foreign language phrase books are expected to be used by casual users (e.g., for vacations abroad), it may be more appropriate to use Method 1 or Method 2 because they do not require the reader to know or to be informed of special braille signs.

Modifiers used in Examples Ahead

- French
 - ▶ e acute **∷** é
 - ▶ a grave 🗄 à
 - ▶ o circumflex 🗄 ô
- Spanish
 - ▶ inverted question mark 🗄 🗄 🚼 🤰
 - ▶ o acute 👶 ó
 - ▶ n with a tilde 🐮 ñ



Examples in Method 3

Finish your postcard by writing *Amitiés* (Best wishes) or *à Bientôt* (see you soon) or *Affectueusement* (love) and sign your name.

You might ask: ¿Y cómo son tus compañeros?

Method 4. Using the Full Foreign Language Braille Code

- Method 4 uses the full braille code of a specific country. This method requires the transcriber to be fluent in the specific language and to know the braille code for that language. UEB code switch indicators (non-UEB indicators) should normally be used where foreign text is mixed with English text in UEB. However in some cases, where the use of foreign language code is clear, the code switch indicators are not necessary. If the foreign language braille code includes contractions (e.g., French or German), then there is an option to use or not use such contractions, depending on the expected readership of the braille.
- Method 4 is appropriate for foreign language literature (i.e., text entirely written in that language), where the readership is expected to be familiar with the foreign code. It may also be appropriate for other material for these readers, where the switching between English and foreign text is clear cut and does not require the frequent use of code switch indicators.

Symbols and Modifiers Used in Examples Ahead

- ► German
 - ► asterisk :
 - ► bold word 🗄
 - ► dot or period .
 - ▶ a umlaut 🗜
 - 🕨 o umlaut 🤮
 - 🕨 u umlaut 🗄



Example of Method 4 (uncontracted German braille)

<u>* Neue Startzeit beim Kön-Marathon</u>

Erstellt 03.02.2014

Die Marathonäufer beim Köln-Marathon 2014 haben einen kurzen Tag: statt wie bisher um 11:30 Uhr erfolgt der Startschussüber die 42,195 km bereits um 10 Uh

Recap

- Method 1 (UEB accents and contractions in Anglicized words) should generally be used for foreign words, phrases, names, titles, etc. occurring in the majority of books, assessments, and other material typically written in English.
- Method 2 (UEB accented letters and uncontracted words) would be appropriate for educational materials for younger students when they are transcribed into uncontracted braille.
- Method 3 (using foreign language signs for accented letters) should generally be used for the foreign text in foreign language school textbooks, foreign language school assessments, foreign language grammar books and phrase books, bilingual dictionaries (e.g., English/French), etc.
- Method 4 (using the full foreign language braille code) is appropriate for foreign language literature (i.e. text entirely written in that language), where the readership is expected to be familiar with the foreign code.

So, unless you are transcribing a book for young people that utilizes foreign language or are fluent in a foreign language and are transcribing a book intended for readers of that county, you'll be using Methods 1 or 3 only!



Other Helpful Tools

- A great start is consulting *The Rules of UEB*, Section 13: Foreign Language (pages 185 - 197). There you will find some of the more common FL code signs for accented or modified characters.
 - > You'll see various examples of sentences that combine English with FL.
 - Guidelines for contracting anglicized words derived from specific languages
 - Using UEB symbols such as the Spanish inverted question mark and exclamation mark
 - Using FL code signs, code switch indicators, dealing with mixed-language literature and more!

World Braille Usage

- Next, look at the World Braille Usage document. Included in the Contents are:
 - The International Phonetic Alphabet
 - Braille Usage by Country (listings for over 140 countries!)
 - Braille Alphabets Used in Multiple Countries (listings for over 25 languages)
- The document is 226 print pages, but I primarily use only the last 45 pages. This is where braille symbols are given for the full alphabet of 25+ languages.
- Chances are you'll only ever be given an opportunity to do FL materials in a handful of those 25 languages - French, German, Italian, and Spanish being the most likely.
- We'll look at a few sections...

World Braille Usage - German (p. 182)

Alphabet: German

а	(1)	•::	i	(24)	•	q	(12345)		у	(13456)	::	
b	(12)	•	j	(245)	••	r	(1235)		z	(1356)		
с	(14)	•••	k	(13)	•	s	(234)	•	ä	(345)		
d	(145)		1	(123)	•	t	(2345)		ö	(246)		
е	(15)	•••	m	(134)	•	u	(136)	••	ü	(1256)		
f	(124)	•	n	(1345)		v	(1236)	•	ß	(2346)		
g	(1245)		o	(135)	•	w	(2456)	•				
h	(125)	•	р	(1234)		x	(1346)	••				

WBU - Spanish (p. 201)

Alphabet: Spanish

		• ·		(0.45)	•		(1005)	• •		(10050)	•:
а	(1)	•	J	(245)	••	r	(1235)	* *	á	(12356)	::
b	(12)	•	k	<mark>(13</mark>)	•	s	(234)	•	é	(2346)	
С	(14)	•••	1	(123)	•	t	(2345)		Í	(34)	
d	(145)		m	(134)	•	u	<mark>(136</mark>)	• :	ó	(346)	
е	(15)	••	n	(1345)		v	(1236)		ú	(23456)	:
f	(124)	••	ñ	(12456)		w	(2456)	•	ü	(1256)	••
g	(1245)		0	(135)		x	(1346)				
h	(125)	••	p	(1234)		У	(13456)				
i	(24)	••	q	(12345)	H	z	(1356)				

WBU - French (p. 180)

Alphabet: French	AI	pha	bet:	Fren	Ich
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-											
а	(1)	•:	k	(13)	::	u	(136)	::	â	(16)	::
b	(12)	•	- E	(123)		v	(1236)		ê	(126)	
С	(14)	••	m	(134)		x	(1346)	::	î	(146)	::
d	(145)	•	n	<mark>(1345</mark>)		у	(13456)	::	Ô	(1456)	::
е	(15)	•	o	(135)		z	(1356)	::	û	(156)	:
f	(124)	••	р	<mark>(1234</mark>)		Ç	(12346)		ë	(1246)	
g	(1245)	••	q	(12345)		é	(123456)	H	ï	(12456)	
h	(125)	••	r	(1235)		à	(12356)		ü	(1256)	•
i	(24)	•	s	(234)		è	(2346)		œ	(246)	•
j	(245)	••	t	(2345)	:	ù	(23456)	::	W	(2456)	
1992											

WBU - Italian (p. 190)

Alphabet: Italian ... • • (1)(123) (1346) (1456)Ô а Х • (12) (134) (13456)(156)b û m У . ••• . (14)(1345) (1356)(1246)ë С n z • . . (135) (145)(12346)(12456)ï d 0 ç •• . H (15)(1234) (123456) (246)é Ö е р • H H (124)(12345)(12356)(1256)f à ü q .. ÷ : (1245) (1235) (2346)(346)è Ò g r . • i (125) (234)(23456)(34) h ù ì s • . ••• (24)(2345)(16)(2456)t â W i :: • •• (245)(136)(126)ê i. u • . (13)(1236)(146)k î V

:

:

.

.

•

•

::

.

•••

WBU Albanian (p. 165)

Alphabet: Albanian

а	(1)	•::	g	(1245)		n	(1345)		t	(2345)	
b	(12)	•	gj	(12456)	•	nj	(1246)	•••	th	(23456)	
с	(14)	••	h	(125)	•••	0	(135)	•••	u	(136)	•••
Ç	(146)		i	(24)	•••	р	(1234)	•	v	(1236)	•••
d	(145)	::	j	(245)	•••	q	(12346)		x	(1346)	•••
dh	(1456)		k	(13)	•	r	(1235)	•	xh	(2346)	
е	(15)	•••	Ι	(123)		rr	(12345)		У	(13456)	
ë	(16)	::	I	(12356)	:	S	(234)	•	z	(1356)	
f	(124)	•	m	(134)	•	sh	(156)	•••	Zh	(1256)	•••

Latin-Based Languages vs. Character-Based Languages

- Most transcribers born and raised in English-speaking countries will only be able to transcribe Latin-based languages (at least initially). We can recognize letters in most Latin-based languages and therefore can transcribe letter-toletter.
- Character-based languages however, such as Hebrew, Mandarin Chinese and many other Asian languages, use characters or symbols. We'll look at a few, just for fun. (Note: Hebrew is not a language given in WBU. Ironically, neither is Latin!)

Cantonese

- Many of the Asian languages are transcribed in braille as pronunciations instead of creating graphics to represent the characters. One reason is that a single character can have different pronunciations depending on its context.
- A Cantonese character is transcribed in three consecutive cells:
 - The initial sound
 - ▶ The final sound
 - The tone (swoop of the voice)

Cantonese Initials

Alp	habet	: Cantone	se, Initials	s ([*] Cai	n be	used as fina	als)				
花	F	(124)	•	爸	в	(1234)	:	渣	DZ	(14)	•••
蝦	н	(125)	•	爬	Ρ	(12346)		叉	TS	(1346)	
家	G	(13)	•	沙	S	(234)		瓜	GW	(12345)	
卡	К	(1235)	•	打	D	(2345)		跨	KW	(12456)	
啦	L	(123)		他	т	(23456)	i	五	NG *	(1245)	
媽	M *	(134)		娃	W	(2456)	•				
哪	Ν	(1345)		也	J	(245)	••				

Finals	Fin	als										
	鴉	А	(12)	•	英	ING	(356)		得	EK	(46)	::
	耶	Е	(15)	•	釘	EING	(2356)	::	客	AK	(13)	
	奥	OU	(1236)		康	ONG	(56)		益	IK	(1235)	
	柯	0	(135)		I	UNG	(236)	:.	隻	EIK	(2456)	•
	矮	AE	(146)	:	央	OENG	(25)	••	惡	OK	(12456)	•
	唉	AI	(346)		靴	OE	(156)		屋	UK	(12345)	
	歐	AU	(16)	•	庵	EM	(456)	1	約	OEK	(246)	•
	拗	AO	(34)	•	監	AM	(345)		不	ET	(35)	
	卑	EI	(125)	•	衣	JI	(24)	•	壓	AT	(2345)	
	哀	OI	(126)	•	腰	JIU	(13456)		渴	OT	(124)	••
	居	OEY	(245)	•	於	JY	(1456)		出	OET	(1346)	
	因	EN	(1246)	•	言	JIN	(256)	••	洽	EP	(26)	
	晏	AN	(45)	:	淵	JYN	(23)	:	鴨	AP	(1234)	
	安	ON	(1345)	:	淹	JIM	(235)	::	熱	JIT	(23456)	÷
	噸	OEN	(234)	•	烏	WU	(136)		月	JYT	(12356)	:
	鶯	ENG	(1245)		偎	WUI	(1256)	•	葉	JIP	(12346)	
	罌	ANG	(14)	••	玩	WUN	(2346)	:	活	WUT	(1356)	

Tones

Tones (^ turn into "space" for words with no initials)

(第二聲)	上上	(1)	•:	(第六聲)	下去	(2)	•:
(第三聲)	上去	(4)	:•	(第八聲)	中入	(5)	•
(第四聲)	下平	(3)	•	(第九聲)	下入	(3)	•
(第五聲)	下上	(6)	:.				
Putting It All Together

Here's an example of Mandarin Chinese in a style called "Common Chinese Braille."





Hebrew Braille

- I won't show as much detail in the construction of Hebrew braille, but it is fascinating to see an example!
- בָּרָאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהֵים אֵת השָׁמַיִם וְאֵת הָאֶרָץ:
- The letters (vowels in parentheses) in the first word are as follows: Bet (sh'va), Resh (tsere), Aleph, Shin (Hiriq), Yod, Tav

Braille Formats

- Of course, even when you have a handle on the four methods and individual language modifiers, you will need to consult the sections of *Braille Formats* that relates to FL materials. As I search "foreign language" in the document, I see sections such as:
- 16.6 Gloss Notes in FL Texts
- 17.7 Word Lists in FL Texts
- > 21.9 Alphabetic References in FL Materials
- Appendix D: FL Symbols
- Later this week, on Thursday, November 19 at 4:30 p.m., Cindi Laurent will present a workshop on "Foreign Language Formatting."

Google Translate

This is a useful tool to decipher the meaning of directions, captions and other FL material that might be beneficial in your transcription. Let me show an example...



Let's Put What We've Learned into an Actual FL Transcription

- We shall now look at the most popular FL language taught in America's schools: Spanish.
- In a foreign language book such as Spanish, you'll only use UEB signs for modifiers on the title page and the times they show up in English translations of sentences and explanatory paragraphs. Otherwise, we will follow Method 3 in our transcription.
- Let's look at examples from some Spanish textbooks.

Title Page

Abriendo paso Temas y lecturas

🖉 🕼 🖸 🔗 🤤 🕍 🍭 Digital Edition

José M. Díaz María F. Nadel

• •	••	· •	••	- •			· •	 			 - •	- × 🔶 -			· •
• •			••	- ÷	 1 () 1 () 1 ()	÷ •		· •	 •••	••		· •	 •••	· •	• •

Method 3

- In this method, follow Section 13.6 in the Rules of UEB. The foreign language signs for accented letters in World Braille Usage are used as needed in foreign text, though all other signs (e.g., punctuation) should be in UEB.
- Neither foreign contractions nor UEB contractions are used in foreign words, though UEB contractions are used in surrounding English words.



World Braille Usage - Spanish

AI	phabet: S	Spanish									
a	(1)	•:	j	(245)	••	r	(1235)		á	(12356)	-
b	(12)	•	k	(13)	:	s	(234)		é	(2346)	- 11
с	(14)		1	(123)	•	t	(2345)	÷	Í	(34)	
d	(145)	•	m	(134)		u	(136)	:	Ó	(346)	
е	(15)	•	n	(1345)	:	v	(1236)	E .	ú	(23456)	
f	(124)		ñ	(12456)		w	(2456)	H	ü	(1256)	
g	(1245)		0	(135)		x	(1346)	::			
h	(125)	••	р	(1234)		у	(13456)	:			
i	(24)	•	q	(12345)		z	(1356)	:			

WBU symbols we do NOT use in Method 3

Punctuation

, comma	(2)	•:
; semicolon	(23)	•
: colon	(25)	••
. period, full stop	(3)	•
¿? question mark	(2626)	•••••
j…! exclamation mark	(235235)	: • : •
' apostrophe	(3)	•
"…", «…» quote	(236236)	..
() parentheses	(126345)	•
* asterisk	(35)	
ellipsis	(3, 3, 3)	••••
- hyphen	(36)	••
— dash	(36, 36)	



Inverted Question and Exclamation Marks

These UEB symbols are unique to Spanish:

•	i	inverted exclamation mark
	ż	inverted question mark





Conversations



- -Oye, Enrique, ¿eres artístico?
- —Sí, según mis amigos soy muy artístico y estudioso. También dicen que soy reservado. Y Gloria, ¿cómo eres tú?
- -Bueno . . . mis amigos dicen que soy paciente y trabajadora. Pero según mi hermanito, ;soy impaciente y perezosa!



Typeform changes and Photos

¿Cómo son?

Trabajen en grupos para hacer una lista de ocho personas famosas. Luego usen los adjetivos de la *Gramática* y de ¿*Recuerdas*? y escriban una frase para describir a estas personas.

Modelo

Marc Anthony Marc Anthony es talentoso y muy guapo.



El cantante Marc Anthony en concierto





This rule also applies for couplets (one line in Spanish, the next line the translation in English) with a name with an accent.

Mi nombre es Martín. My name is Martín.

We treat the Spanish sentence in foreign language uncontracted, but the English in UEB contracted with UEB modifiers.



Text Color

The verb ser

You have learned to use the verb *ser* with adjectives to tell what someone is like.

Esas chicas son bonitas.

You have also learned to use *ser* with *de* to tell where someone is from.

Son de Buenos Aires.





Charts

Remember that *ser* is irregular. Here are its present-tense forms:

(yo)	soy	(nosotros) (nosotras)	somos
(tú)	eres	(vosotros) (vosotras)	sois
Ud. (él) (ella)	es	Uds. (ellos) (ellas)	son



Vocabulary Lists

to talk about energy

ahorrar	to save
el aire acondicionado	air conditioning
la calefacción	heat
económico, -a	economical
eficiente	efficient
la electricidad	electricity
la energía	energy
solar	solar





Some Additional Information Before We Wrap Up

- The Braille Authority of North America (BANA) has a task force that is working on more details for us, and eventually working toward a full Guidelines for Foreign Language Braille Transcription.
- Also, the BANA Formats Committee is making proposed changes in an errata document for Braille Formats that relates to Foreign Language materials.
- More to come in future years!

Where to Find the Helpful Tools

- The Provisional Guidance for Transcribing Foreign Language Materials in UEB can be found at the BANA website at <u>http://www.brailleauthority.org/foreign-language/index.html</u>
- The Rules of UEB can be found at <u>http://iceb.org/ueb.html</u>
- Braille Formats: Principles of Print-to-Braille Transcription, 2016 can be found at <u>http://www.brailleauthority.org/formats/formats2016.html</u>
- World Braille Usage can be found at <u>https://www.perkins.org/international/about/world-braille-usage</u>
- Google Translator can be found at <u>https://translate.google.com/</u>

Any Questions?

- I can take questions now, or you can write in to Ask An Expert, or write to me directly at:
- patrick@braillemusicandmore.com
- Make sure to attend the other foreign language workshop presentation this week. On Thursday, November 19 at 4:30 p.m., Cindi Laurent will present "Foreign Language Formatting."