

RULE II — SPECIAL BRAILLE COMPOSITION SIGNS

Sign	Meaning
⠠	non-Latin letter indicator
⠼	number sign
⠨	accent sign; print symbol indicator
⠸	italic sign; (also decimal point)
⠸⠸	double italic sign
⠠	letter sign
⠠	capital sign
⠠⠠	double capital sign
⠠⠠	termination sign

8. Order of Punctuation and Composition Signs: When two or more braille punctuation marks or composition signs occur together before a word, number or letter, they are placed in the following order:

Order With Punctuation

- Open parenthesis or bracket
- Open quotation sign
- Italic sign
- Non-Latin letter indicator
- Print symbol indicator
- Letter sign
- Apostrophe
- Capital sign
- Accent sign

Order With Numbers

- Open parenthesis or bracket
- Open quotation sign
- Italic sign
- Print symbol indicator
- Number sign
- Apostrophe
- Decimal sign

10. Italics:

Single italic sign ⠠

Double italic sign ⠠⠠

a. The italic sign is placed before an abbreviation, word, apostrophized word, hyphenated compound word, or number, to indicate that it is italicized. The italic sign is not to be repeated after the hyphen or the apostrophe. In a divided word, or number, the italic sign should not be repeated at the beginning of the next line. **Ex:**

a priori ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

e.g. ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

President ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

l'orange ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

o'clock ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

blue-eyed ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

out-of-the-way ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

1914-1918 ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

dis- ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ 123,- ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

graced ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ 453,278 ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(**Note:** Although italics are very common in print, in many instances they have no value to the braille reader.)

(1) Italics must be used in braille if they are used in print only in the following instances:

(a) To indicate emphasis. Ex:

If you are going to go, *go*.



He is *for* the people.



(b) To show distinction, only in such cases as:

Foreign words and phrases.

The names of ships, pictures, book titles, publications, etc.

Subject headings at the beginning of paragraphs.

The difference between silent thought and conversation.

Where in print a passage is printed in italics or different typeface from that of the regular text.

(2) Italics should be omitted in such instances as the following:

Where quoted passages appear in both quotations and italics, unless the italics are

Where pronunciations are written in both parentheses and italics.

In the writing of all stage directions, settings, etc., in plays. (When stage directions are given along with the speaking lines of a play, but are not enclosed in parentheses or

Where a letter which means a letter is written in braille preceded by the letter sign.

(See §12.a.(2).)

Where lists of words are printed in boldface type or italics.

Where word endings are separated from the root words and are printed in italics or

Where titles, chapters, sections or other centered headings are printed entirely in italics

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(4) The letter sign is required when a single letter which means a letter is followed by an apostrophe "s", or is joined by a hyphen to a word or number which follows it. Each letter should be preceded by a letter sign when letters of the alphabet are joined by a hyphen or a dash. **Ex:**

b-1 ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ t-square ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

the letters a-j ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Mind your p's and q's.

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

He received 3 C's. ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

b. The letter sign is not required before a single capitalized or uncapitalized letter when:

(1) The letter is an initial or an abbreviation followed by a period or an oblique stroke.

Ex:

Dr. J. F. Pilgrim, M.D. ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

c/o ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ s/he ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(2) The letter sign is not required when the letter is followed by the number sign. **Ex:**

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⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(3) The letter sign is not required when a number is followed by a contraction. (See also §29.) **Ex:**

1st to 4th ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

