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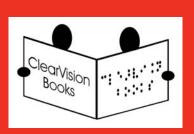
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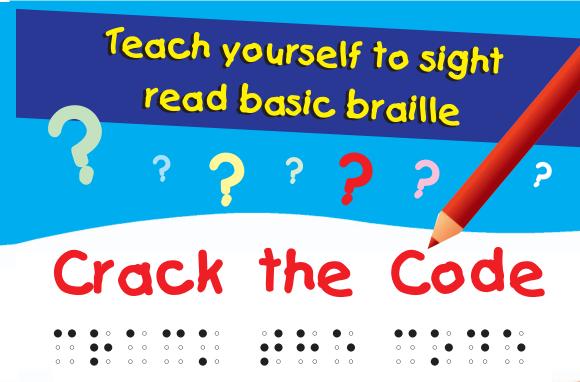
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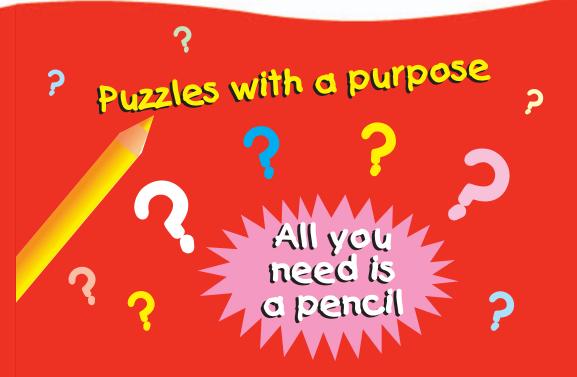
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Learning braille

Braille is a system of raised symbols, which some people who are blind or partially-sighted learn to read with their fingertips.

The words in braille go from left to right across the page, just like printed words.

Some people become very fast at reading braille and are able to read long books, such as Harry Potter. Other people just use

braille for labelling, or for writing notes. For some children who are blind or partially-sighted, braille is the very best way to learn

to read.

When sighted people look at a page of braille they see a mass of dots and it is hard to imagine ever reading it - by sight or by touch. But once you know what you are looking for it becomes much easier.

What is grade I braille?

There are two grades of braille. Grade 1 (also called 'uncontracted braille') is a straightforward code with one symbol for each letter of the alphabet, plus a few extra symbols for punctuation and numbers.

Grade 2 ('contracted braille') uses the same symbols for the letters of the alphabet but it has lots of extra signs for common words and combinations of letters. Grade 2 braille is quicker to read but takes longer to learn.

For more information about braille and a range of braille courses for visually-impaired and sighted adults and children, please contact the RNIB: 0845 766 9999 www.rnib.org.uk

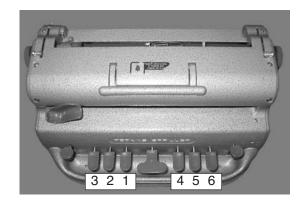
How do the dots work?

The symbols which represent each letter are made up of between one and six dots, based on the pattern of the six dots you would see on a dice or a domino.



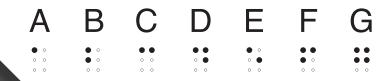
Each dot can be referred to by number. On a Perkins brailler the keys correspond to the individual dots as shown below.

- 1004
- 2005
- 3 O O 6



If you are able to spend an hour or two with this puzzle book you will find, by the end, you can read a whole page of basic 'grade 1' braille with very little difficulty.

The Alphabet



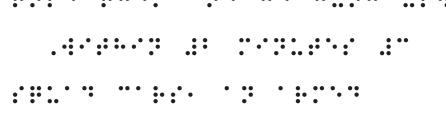
1 Use a pencil or pen to copy the dots which make up the letters:

2 Here are the letters A-G again - but one letter is repeated. Which one?

3 Can you match the following words in print and braille?







Here's a bit more reading practice. The second part of the story looks more like embossed braille - the kind you will find in real braille books.

This is the true story of a man who woke at 2 in the morning and realised that thieves were breaking into his garage.

4 Can you read these sentences?

bought him an Arsenal business.

He He him her to get into the him . •

She met him at an Internet



5 Fill in the missing word - in braille!

Delia Smith will teach you how to boil an

00 00 00

Burgers are usually made from minced

In card games, the highest (and lowest) scoring card is an 👯 👯 👯

David Beckham is Brooklyn Beckham's

00 00 00

You have learned these letters:

A B C D E F G

Now here are six more:

6 Copy the dots which make up the letters:

0 0

7 Find the opposites of these print words:

25 The winning lottery numbers are 5 17 26 38 49.

Which of these numbers wasn't a winning number?



You have cracked the code!

And longer numbers just need one number sign at the beginning:

24 Fill in the missing numbers



For the emergency services dial

The Prime Minister lives at 👯 👯 💲 Downing Street.

James Bond is agent

8 A Murder Mystery

dead in :: 's Downtown Diner in we interpretation in the second secon his brother iii and iii his sister lend ::: money which ::: away. insurance and was

in

marriage to it is occasion is even

plane from

to Many

people wanted to : :: : : : : : : : . But

who it the it ? it !!!



And that's half the alphabet

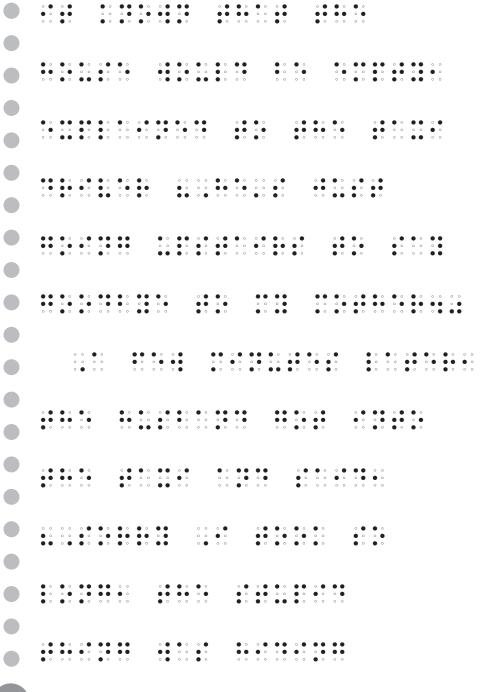
Numbers

Lastly, you need to know a few numbers.

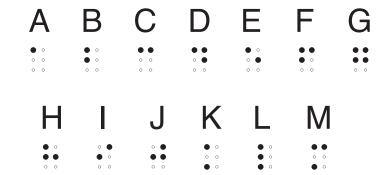
With the clever use of a number sign like this in front of them, the letters A to J become numbers - like this:

 1
 2
 3
 4
 5

 6
 7
 8
 9
 0



You have learned these letters:



Now here are seven more:



9 Copy the dots which make up the letters:



10 Find the shops!

11 Take another good look at the new letters. Now try to remember them and fill them in the spaces below:



12 Wordsearch



Write these drinks in braille.

soda	beer	lager					
00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00					
00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00					
00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00	00 00 00 00 00					

tea			cola						p	port										
	0 0	0 0) (0 0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0
	0 0	0 0) (0 0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0
	0 0	0 0) (0 0		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0

Now find them in the box below, written across or down. Can you find one more drink in the box?

• •	• •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• •	• ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° ° °
• •	• • • • • • •	• •	• • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• •	• • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• •
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• o
• o	• o • o	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• •

23 And here's a funny story for you!

22 Now add the punctuation to this sentence:

You say "hello" and I say "goodbye."



You might also need to recognise the apostrophe, which looks like this

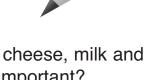
For example: It's very warm in Zoe's flat.

Punctuation

Before we look at the last six letters, it is time to look at some punctuation. Unlike the letters of the alphabet, punctuation does not use either of the top dots.

Here is a braille full stop.	• • • •	Copy it here	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
We also need a comma,	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	Copy it here	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
an exclamation mark!	• • • •	Copy it here	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0 0
and a question mark?	• • • •	Copy it here	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0	0 0 0 0 0

13 Fill in the braille punctuation in the following sentences:



I stopped at the shop to get eggs, cheese, milk and bread. Had I forgotten something important? Nappies? Soap? Potatoes? I know! Chocolate!

Braille produced for children usually shows which letters are

Braille produced for children usually shows which letters are capitals by putting a capital sign in front of them.

In this way, young braille users learn how to use capital letters themselves.

The sign to show a capital is like this:

The capital sign appears at the start of every sentence, at the beginning of names and wherever else you would find a capital letter in print.

14 Read these words and find the odd one out!

Two more bits of punctuation . . .

In print, what people say is put in speech marks "like this."

In braille, speech starts with this sign

and ends with this one

21 Copy out this braille sentence, with punctuation.

"Women," he said, "like sunbathing."

19 The missing words all start with the same letter: • People waiting in line is called a 0000000 • A competition with questions is a • Where boats tie up is called a ••••••• 15 Fill in the names of famous people - not forgetting the capital sign. (Make up a name if you don't know the answer!) 20 Now here's a joke: 00 00 00 00 00 00 Oliver (chef) 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 Mandela (statesman) 00 00 00 00 00 00 Obama (US President) Cruise (US actor) • • • • • • • Widdecombe (politican) 00000000 (boy wizard) 00 00 00 00 00 00

Now for the last six letters. You have already learned these:

A B C D E F G

H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T

Now here are the last six:

U V W X Y Z

16 Copy the dots which make up the letters:



17 Write your first name here (with a capital sign):



Write your child's name here:



Where do you live?



18 Circle your birthday month:



