

# USING THE BRAILLE GERMAN CODE



**RNIB**

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partially sighted people

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This document is based on the braille code used **in the United Kingdom** for transcribing text in German, and includes advice about various layout conventions.

## THE BRAILLE SIGNS

For ordinary letters of the alphabet, the braille signs are the same as for Standard English Braille (SEB).

For accented letters, the following special accent signs should be used:

⠠	ä
⠡	ö
⠢	ü

Contractions are used for the following letter groups. These may be used for whole words where appropriate.

⠠	au	⠠	eu
⠠	äu	⠠	ie
⠠	ch	⠠	in
⠠	ei	⠠	sch
⠠	ein	⠠	st
⠠	er	⠠	ß (Gothic ss or sz sign)

German code also uses the following wordsigns:

d	for	das
m	"	man
n	"	nicht
u	"	und
v	"	von
z	"	zu

Composition signs, e.g. letter sign, numeral sign, etc., are the same as in SEB, with the following exceptions:

- ⠠ capital sign
- ⠨ italic sign
- ⠠⠨ double italic sign

Punctuation signs are the same as in SEB, with the following exceptions:

- ⠠ abbreviation point (as well as apostrophe)
- ⠠ question mark

Print symbols, e.g. dagger, percentage symbol, etc., and mathematical symbols, e.g. plus, minus, etc., are represented by the same signs as in SEB, with the following exception:

- ⠠ asterisk

*(The German asterisk is currently used, but the use of the SEB asterisk would bring this into line with the other print symbols. In practice, in bilingual texts, the SEB asterisk is usually used anyway to avoid confusion with the wordsign "IN".)*

## THE RULES

The German Code as used in the UK is a much simplified version of the real German Code used in Germany, thus making an introduction to the German language as straightforward as possible for VI students, without them having to learn a complicated new braille code at the same time. With this in mind, the approach to the production of German language material is: if there's no rule to the contrary, the SEB rule applies.

### **The contractions.**

Care must be taken when using the following contractions:

ER: This should not be used in words where

- a) the "e" is part of a preceding syllable or prefix, e.g. "gericht", "bericht", etc. (however, in "Berlin" for example, you can contract the ER since the syllable is "BER- lin")
- b) the "e" forms part of a longer vowel sound, e.g. "leer", "ERdbeere", etc.
- c) the "e" forms part of a vowel sound with "i", in which case the IE contraction should be used instead, e.g. "hlEr", "HaustlEr", etc.









## *Time.*

There are no abbreviations of time. The word “Uhr” is written out in full, or the 24-hour clock is used.

## WORD DIVISION

The following information on word division may be useful. Words may be divided:

- (a) between syllables, e.g. Geo-gra-phonie, spe-zi-ell
- (b) between nouns in a compound noun, e.g. Haar-bürste, Unter-tasse
- (c) after prefixes, e.g. auf-geschlossen, be-antworten, Mit-arbeiter
- (d) before suffixes, e.g. Krank-heit, Geheim-nis
- (e) between elements in separable and inseparable verbs, e.g. zurück-kommen, über-gehen

Note that if dividing a word containing a “ck”, these letters should be kept together and taken over to the next line, e.g. backen ≡ ba-cken. (*New rule effective from 1 April 1998 – in texts published before this date you may still see the old method of changing “ck” to “k-k”, e.g. backen ≡ bak-ken.*)

If a word is divided at an ß, the ß should be treated as “ss”, e.g. schließen ≡ schlies-sen. (This does not apply, of course, if the ß is wholly part of one syllable, or one noun in a compound noun, e.g. Paß’amt.)

## GERMAN/ENGLISH BILINGUAL TEXT

### **English Context.**

(This would apply to such works as: books teaching German as a foreign language; grammar books; critiques including excerpts from German texts, etc.)

**1. German code** (including German italics where necessary) should be used for the following:

- (a) German words in quotes or italics.
- (b) German words which form a centred heading.
- (c) German passages which are inset.
- (d) German words which form a source at the end of a sentence or passage in German.
- (e) German words which are separated from an English interpretation by a colon or other suitable punctuation, as in Notes or Vocabulary.









Was	kostet	dieser	Film/Schlüsselanhänger?
Wieviel	kostet	diese	Schokolade/CD/Zeitung?
	kostet	dieses	Buch/T-Shirt/Parfüm?
	kosten	diese	Ansichtskarten/Pralinen?

⠠Was ⠠Wieviel ⠠kostet ⠠kostet ⠠kostet ⠠kosten ⠠dieser ⠠diese ⠠dieses ⠠diese  
 ⠠Film/Schlüsselanhänger? ⠠Schokolade/CD/Zeitung? ⠠Buch/T-Shirt/Parfüm?  
 ⠠Ansichtskarten/Pralinen?

(Notice that the options are separated by semi-colons, not strokes. This helps to avoid long wordstrings, which are not easy to read.)

With your partner, practise making up sentences using the table below.

Was kostet ein Brief	nach	England?
Was kostet eine Postkarte		Frankreich?
		Belgien?
Ich möchte	eine Briefmarke	zu
	zwei Briefmarken	einer Mark
	drei Briefmarken	zwei Mark
		sechzig Pfennig

⠠Was ⠠Wieviel ⠠kostet ⠠kostet ⠠kostet ⠠kosten ⠠dieser ⠠diese ⠠dieses ⠠diese  
 ⠠Film/Schlüsselanhänger? ⠠Schokolade/CD/Zeitung? ⠠Buch/T-Shirt/Parfüm?  
 ⠠Ansichtskarten/Pralinen?







Alternatively, the infinitive could be centred (without the word “Infinitive”, although if you do this you should explain it in a note at the beginning of the table) and this would obviate the need for asterisks to separate the conjugations and save some space.

Some verb tables are best presented in table format, the same way that print does them, although we have to make some adjustments to allow for the limited space on the braille page.

*Example:*

**Modal verbs – present tense:**

	<b>dürfen</b>	<b>können</b>	<b>mögen</b>	<b>müssen</b>	<b>sollen</b>	<b>wollen</b>
ich	darf	kann	mag	muss	soll	will
du	darfst	kannst	magst	musst	sollst	willst
er/sie/es	darf	kann	mag	muss	soll	will
wir	dürfen	können	mögen	müssen	sollen	wollen
ihr	dürft	könnt	mögt	müsst	sollt	wollt
sie/Sie	dürfen	können	mögen	müssen	sollen	wollen

(Notice there are no dot 3 lead lines between conjugations. This is because conjugations are meant to be read down the column, not across the row.)

\* \* \* \* \*

## GERMAN WORDLIST GUIDE TO CONTRACTING

This Wordlist is not comprehensive, and does not include words in which the contractions are straightforward, but it does include many of the more unusual words that may be encountered up to GCSE level. A good German dictionary showing how the words are pronounced, in conjunction with the rules stated in this booklet, should help you with words not included in this list.

### A

AkademIE  
AllERgIE  
Asthma  
Au-pair  
AUsSCHalten  
AUsST/Eigen  
AUsSTellung  
AUsST/IEg  
AUstAU/SCH  
AUstAU/SCHen  
AUstragen  
AUtobahndrEleck

### B

BattER/ IE  
beERben  
beERdigen  
BeERdigung  
Beere  
beige [the colour]  
bElnahe  
Belgien  
BelgiER  
beraten  
Beratung  
berElt  
berElten  
B/ERg  
BeriCHt  
berICHten

### B/ERIIN

B/ERn  
Beruf  
BerufsberatER  
Berufsberatung  
BerufsSCHule  
berufstätig  
beSTätigen  
BeSTie  
BetrIEbsfERien  
BibliographIE  
Biologie  
Bundestag

### C

CHemie  
CHampignon  
CHauffeur

### D

DAS  
D/IEntag  
D/INosAUriER  
DonnERstag  
drEleckig  
DrogER/IE

### E

EI  
EIN

EINfamilienhAUs  
ERdbeere

### F

Familie  
Familiename  
F/EI/ERabend  
fEI/ERn  
F/EI/ERtag  
F/ERien  
Folie  
FotokopIE  
Fotokopien  
FrElen  
Friseur

### G

Garderobe  
Geburtstag  
GenIE  
GeographIE  
gerade  
geradeAUs  
Gerät  
GerÄU/SCH  
GereCHt  
GeriCHt  
G/ER/STe  
G/ERte  
GeruCH  
Gerufe

geruhig  
GroSCHen  
Großbritannien  
GynäkologIE

## H

H/AUptgeriCHt  
H/ÄUsCHen  
H/AUstIEr  
hERrSCHen  
H/IErarCH/IE  
hilfsberElt  
Himbeere  
Hygiene  
hygieniSCH

## I

IdeologIE  
INdien  
INduSTrIE  
INduSTrien  
INgenieur  
INtERview  
Italien  
ItalienER  
italieniSCH

## J

Jugoslawien

## K

KarriERE  
KnIE (sing.)  
Knie (pl.)  
KohlenrevIER  
Kommandeur  
Komödie  
KopIE  
Kopien

## L

leer  
leeren  
Leerung  
L/EUkämIE  
liebestoll  
L/INie

## M

MAN  
M/ÄUsCHen  
Meer  
MeerSCHwEIN/CHen  
Mittelmeer  
musst

## N

Namenstag  
NICHT  
niCHts  
Niveau

## O

ÖkonomIE

## P

passt  
Patient  
PhilosophIE  
Portemonnaie  
PortiER  
Prämie  
PremiERE  
ProtelN

## R

RadIErgummi  
Redakteur  
Regisseur  
ReiCHstag

RiviERa  
Rumänien

## S

Samstag  
S/AUriER  
SCHnElen  
SCHrElen  
SELLER/IE  
SenderEIhe  
S/ERie  
S/ERviette  
Spanien  
SpaniER  
speziell  
STudie  
STudienrat

## T

TagesgeriCHt  
ThERapEUt

## U

UmklElderAUm  
UND

## V


VegetariER  
VON  
vorberElten

## W

WaCHstum  
WarndrEleck  
WettERberiCHt

## Z

Z/ERemonIE  
ZU



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