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## The Braille Alphabet

									
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
									
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
									
u	v	w	x	y	z				

## The Braille Cell

The basic unit of the braille system is the braille cell. A braille cell is a group of six dots.



The dots of the cell are arranged and numbered like this:



A braille letter, number, or other character is made by raising one or more of the dots in the cell.



The large dots represent raised dots. The small dots are to help identify the position of the dots within the cell. The small dots do not show in embossed braille.

To make an a, the dot in the 1 position is raised. ⠁

b is made by raising dots 1 and 2. ⠃

c is made by raising dots 1 and 4. ⠉

d is made by raising dots 1, 4 and 5. ⠋

e is made by raising dots 1 and 5. ⠑

## The Braille Numbers

⠠	⠡	⠢	⠣	⠤
1	2	3	4	5
⠥	⠦	⠧	⠨	⠩
6	7	8	9	0

Braille numbers are made by placing the braille number sign before the braille letters a through j.

## Examples:

The braille number sign: ⠠

1 is number sign plus a: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

2 is number sign plus b: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

10 is number sign plus aj: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

375 is number sign plus cge: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

## Fun with Braille

### Playing with Letters and Numbers

Braille numbers are formed by placing a braille number sign before braille letters.

Let's try guessing what word will be spelled when we take away the number sign from a group of letters. Fill in the blanks below with the correct word using the hints given. You can find the answers after the last puzzle.

#### 1. Let's play 894!

Here is number 894: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Without the number sign: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Can you guess what the remaining group of letters spell?



Hint: People like to have coffee at a \_\_\_\_\_.

If you guessed it, you're doing great!

**5. Now for an even tougher one! Let's play 61354!**

Here is number 61354: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Without the number sign: ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Can you guess what the remaining group of letters spell?

Hint: She turned and \_\_\_\_\_ the wind.

If you guessed it, that's terrific!

## Answers to Fun with Braille

1. hid	2. fed	
3. jig	4. cafe	5. faced

## Using Your Computer to Print Braille Letters and Numbers

If you have braille fonts installed on your computer, the braille number sign can be typed on the keyboard using the # symbol. The # symbol is found above the number 3 key on your keyboard.

To type 375 on your computer, open a text editor and select the braille font that you have installed on your computer. (The braille font will appear in the list of fonts available for the document.)

Type the number 375 by typing #cge.

Would you like to download a simulated braille font? You may by going to:

<http://www.louisbrailleschool.org/font.htm>

Instructions on how to install the font are provided on the Web page.