



AUSTRALIAN BRAILLE AUTHORITY

A subcommittee of the Round Table on
Information Access for People with Print Disabilities Inc.
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German and UEB

Introduction

This document should be read in conjunction with the *Australian Braille Authority, Guidelines for Foreign Language Material, 2019* which can be found on the brailleaustralia.org website.

Follow these guidelines when transcribing German for educational purposes, such as German language textbooks, examination papers, grammar and phrase books, bilingual dictionaries, etc.

German within an English context such as a novel should use the guidelines given in 1.1 of the *Australian Braille Authority, Guidelines for Foreign Language Material, 2019*.

A more complete German code may be requested for higher education or by a native reader. This is not covered in detail in this document. Relevant DBT codes are however given in the section on DBT.

Kathy Riessen, Editor May 2019

Contractions

Transcribe German text uncontracted using the accents as listed below.

Punctuation

Use UEB punctuation, indicators and numeral conventions. Use UEB non-specific single cell quotes for the German low opening quotation mark and upper closing quotation mark. Guillemets (angled quotes) are transcribed as the UEB angle or Italian quote signs.

Numerals

German numerals are brailled as they are written using UEB symbols. Note that German uses a comma for a decimal and this should be used in the braille. German ordinal numbers are shown with a full stop after the numeral.

Code switching

Code switching (Section 14, Rules of Unified English Braille 2013) is very rarely used. A student can usually determine from context what is English and what is German.

Music

German lyrics written as part of a music score use the German accents and UEB indicators and punctuation as stated above. A transcriber note explaining accent signs used may be required for readers unfamiliar with the signs.

German Accents:

Use the UEB capital indicator to show a capital accented letter.

| Symbol | UEB | German | Description |
|---------------|------------|---------------|--------------------|
| ä | ⠠⠠⠠⠠ | ⠠⠠ | a umlaut |
| ö | ⠠⠠⠠⠠ | ⠠⠠ | o umlaut |
| ü | ⠠⠠⠠⠠ | ⠠⠠ | u umlaut |
| ß | ⠠⠠⠠ | ⠠⠠ | eszett or sharfes |

DBT

This information is current for DBT 12.4 using the **English (UEB) – Australian Formatting** template. Earlier versions may also be compatible.

The following styles are included in the Australian Template.

<German> ... </German> where text between the tags will be transcribed uncontracted using German accents and UEB punctuation and indicators.

The following two styles are useful where a long passage of German spans multiple paragraphs.

<GermanBegin> Begin a section in German

<GermanResume> Return to UEB

If using codes rather than styles, [Ing~de] switches to German and [Ing] reverts to contracted UEB. Text following the [Ing~de] code is uncontracted, has the German accents but UEB punctuation and indicators.

Quotation marks

DBT does not correctly translate the German lower opening and the closing upper quotes. Use standard double quotation signs in the Word document.

Higher education or native reader

Where the full German code for higher education or a native reader is required use the code [Inb~deu] (German). [Inb] reverts back to Unified English Braille. By default, the German will be contracted and the [g1] code (grade 1) is required for uncontracted German or [g1.5] code for just the Volschrift Contractions as shown in *World Braille Usage*. German punctuation and indicators are used.

Word and DBT

Any text in Word which has a character style named **German** applied will automatically map to the <German> style in DBT. When defining the **German** style in Word, if the language is set to German, Word will use the German spell checker if this is installed.

Change any German quotation signs to standard double quotes before translation.

Word shortcuts

Notes to the following table:

The ampersand key is shift 7

| Symbol | Description | Shortcut |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ä | a umlaut | ctrl-colon, a |
| ö | o umlaut | ctrl-colon, o |
| ü | u umlaut | ctrl-colon, u |
| ß | eszett or sharfes | ctrl-ampersand, s |
| € | Euro | ctrl-alt-e |

Examples

German passage showing German accents but UEB punctuation and indicators.

Jetzt fahren wir die Friedrichstraße entlang und dann rechts in die Straße „Unter den Linden“. Dort ist das Brandenburger Tor, ein wichtiges Symbol für Deutschland.

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Passage from a German language textbook. As the textbook is for teaching the German language German words are transcribed uncontracted using the German accents, but with UEB typeform indicators.

The town of **Hann. Münden** is located between **Göttingen** and **Kassel** in the state of **Niedersachsen**. It lies in a triangle of rivers (**Werra, Fulda** and **Weser**) and is famous for its traditional German buildings, **Fachwerkhäuser**, and its colourful history.

Die Stadt **Hann. Münden** liegt zwischen **Göttingen** und **Kassel** im Bundesland **Niedersachsen**. Sie befindet sich in einem Dreieck von Flüssen (**Werra, Fulda** und **Weser**) und ist berühmt für ihre traditionellen deutschen Gebäude, **Fachwerkhäuser**, und ihre farbenfrohe Geschichte.

German numerals. Note the use of the comma for the decimal. The full stop following a digit signifies an ordinal number.

€25,89

5,5 Millionen

1,9%

4. Mai.

€25,89
 5,5 Millionen
 1,9%
 4. Mai.

Verb table. Verb forms and endings are in bold and UEB typeform indicators are used.

| | wissen: to know |
|-------------|------------------------|
| ich | weiß |
| du | weißt |
| er, sie, es | weiß |
| wir | wiss en |
| ihr | wisst |
| sie, Sie | wiss en |

ich weiß
 du weißt
 er, sie, es weiß
 wir wissen
 ihr wisst
 sie, Sie wissen

A vocab List. In the print plural forms are shown in brackets. Where the plural adds an umlaut to the vowel, this is shown in the print as an isolated umlaut, that is there is no letter with it. As UEB does not have a symbol for an isolated umlaut, the plural is spelled out. Some form of clear distinction should be given between German and English and a spaced dash is used in this example.

die Art (en) — kind, type, sort
 der Artikel (-) — article (gramm.)
 der Arzt (Ärzte) — doctor (*male*)
 die Ärztin (nen) — doctor (*female*)
 asiatisch — Asian
 aua! — ouch!
 auf — in; on; to, onto
 auf Deutsch — in German
 auf dem Schulhof — in the schoolyard

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