

BARI 141: BASIC BRAILLE LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Unit 4: Simple upper word-signs and abbreviations

By a Team of UR-CE Lecturers

Unit 4: Simple upper word-signs and abbreviations

Unit 4 learning outcomes

By the end of this unit, you should be able to:

1. Identify simple upper word-signs
2. Read and write simple word-signs and abbreviations
3. Differentiate special common upper word-signs

Unit 4: Simple upper word-signs and abbreviations

Unit 4 indicative content

Topic 4.1: Simple Upper word-signs

Topic 4.2: Five special common word-signs

Topic 4.3: Simple abbreviations

Topic 4.1: Simple Upper word-signs

Activity 9: 5 minutes

Discuss why you think it is useful to have letters representing whole words in Braille

Simple Upper word-signs

The following are letters used in Braille and the word each of them stands for:

b: but	l: like	v: very
c: can	m: more	w: will
d: do	n: not	x: it
e: every	p: people	y: you
f: from	q: quite	z: as
g: go	r: rather	
h: have	s: so	
j: just	t: that	
k: knowledge	u: us	

N.B: Letter **a**, **i** and **o** do not any word in Braille

Topic 4.2: Five special common word-signs

Activity 10: 10 minutes

Write 10 words that you think occur very frequently in English. See how many of the words you write will occur among the five common words discussed in this topic

Five special common words

The words ‘and’, ‘for’, ‘of’, ‘the’, and ‘with’ occur very frequently in English. In braille, they are represented by five special common word signs as follows:

**and****for****of****the****with**

and dots 1 2 3 and 4 6

for dots 1 2 3 and 4 5 6 (all six dots) |

of dots 123 and 5 6

the dots 23 and 4 6

with dots 23 and 4 5 6

N.B: When two or more of these words occur in succession and in the same phrase, the word-signs that express them are written adjoining one another (if in the same line of Braille) as if they were one word: without any space between them, in order to save space. Similarly, when the article “a” occurs next to any of these five word-signs

Topic 4.3: Simple abbreviations

Activity 11: 10 minutes

Make a list of 20 words that you think can be abbreviated.
Why did you choose these words?

Simple abbreviations

Below is a list of some abbreviations used in Braille. These are letters that are used in combination to represent whole words

al: also

bl: blind

tgr: together

abv: above

af: after

alm: almost

alr: already



Self-assessment

1. Use the simple upper word-signs you have learnt to form meaningful sentences
2. Translate the following braille text:



Transcribe the following from print to braille:

I can see the man with the dog and a cat.

3. Write down the words represented by the following abbreviations:

al

bl

tgr

abv

af

alm

alr

What did I learn in this unit

Unit Summary

In this unit, you have learnt about simple upper word-signs and the words they stand for. You also learnt about the five common abbreviations. In the final part of this unit, you learnt some simple abbreviations. Remember to practice what you have learnt in order to familiarize yourself with the abbreviations

What did I learn in this unit

! Reflection question

Write down as many sentences as you can in braille using the abbreviations you have learnt in this unit.



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END UNIT 4

THANK YOU