BAR1142: Advanced Braille

Unit 1: Introduction to advanced English Braille

By a Team of UR-CE Lecturers

Unit 1: Introduction to advanced English Braille

Unit 1 learning outcomes

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

1. Differentiate forms of English Braille

2. Explain the importance of advanced English Braille

3. Discuss your contribution to the development of Rwandan Braille codes

Unit 1: Introduction to advanced English Braille

Unit 1 indicative content

Topic 1.1: The concept of English Braille

Topic 1.2: Rationale of Advanced English Braille

Topic 1.1: The concept of English Braille

✍ Activity 1:

In pairs, discuss the different types of braille that you know.

Topic 1.1: The concept of English Braille

Braille is a tactile method of reading and writing for blind people. It was developed by Louis Braille (1809–1852), (REB, 2020).

Topic 1.1: The concept of English Braille

English Braille, also known as Grade 2 Braille. It consists of approximately 250 Braille letters used in English, numerals, punctuation, formatting marks, contractions, and abbreviations.

1.1.1 Most common types of braille

There are two forms of Text or literary Braille: **non-contracted** or **alphabetic Braille** and **contracted Braille** for saving space.

Topic 1.1: The concept of English Braille

Alphabetic Braille is also known as Grade one Braille. E.g: knowledge

Literary Braille is also known as contracted Braille or Grade 2 Braille. E.g:

Other types of Braille codes include the **Nemeth codes, Music Braille and Unified English Braille (UEB).**

1.1.2 Other Types of Braille

The Nemeth Braille Code is used to encode mathematical and scientific notation (Nemeth, 1952). Usually, we use standard six-dot Braille cells for tactile reading.

1.1.2 Other Types of Braille

Music Braille was created by the father of modern Braille (Louis Braille, who was also a musician. "Music Braille" uses combinations of the same six-dot cells as literary Braille to represent the pitch and rhythm of each note (Louis Braille, 1829).

1.1.2 Other Types of Braille

Unified English Braille that was developed by the International Council on English Braille to unify the Braille codes used among English-speaking countries and to unify the Braille symbols used in literacy, numeracy and computing   contexts (Simpson 2013).

1.1.3 Braille code

The **Braille code** was invented by Louis Braille (1809-1852). It is a writing system which enables blind and partially sighted people to read and write through touch. Where each Braille cell represents a letter, numeral or punctuation mark.

1.1.3 Braille code

✍ Self-assessment

1. Differentiate common types of English Braille

2. Explain English Braille Code Versions

Topic 1.2: Rationale of Advanced English Braille

The advanced English Braille was designed to deal with a wide range of subject matter at all levels of complexity while not drastically changing what makes the original six-dot Braille script easy to understand.

Topic 1.2: Rationale of Advanced English Braille

✍ Activity 2

1.   Discuss the rationale of Advanced English Braille

2.   Explain the major changes that Advanced English Braille made

1.2.1 The reasons of advanced English Braille for individuals

Advanced English Braille makes it easier to learn, read and write math in Braille for both primary and secondary school students.

1.2.1 The reasons of advanced English Braille for individuals

Shows more symbols in Braille that gives the Braille reader better access to the same information that is available to print readers.

1.2.1 The reasons of advanced English Braille for individuals

Computer translation and back-translation could be produced more quickly.

Reduces the labor required with Braille production.

1.2.1 The reasons of advanced English Braille for individuals

Increases the timeliness of many types of Braille.

Improve back-translation of Braille that is written using electronic devices.

1.2.2 The major changes of Advanced English Braille

The major changes include:

Spacing: Words that were written together such as "and for of the with" were mandated to have a space between them as they do in print.

Elimination of some contractions:

Owing to translation difficulties and confusion with other symbols, "ally," "ation," "ble," "by," "com," "dd,'' "into," "o'clock," and "to" were removed from Advanced English Braille.

1.2.2 The major changes of Advanced English Braille

Punctuation: A few punctuation marks, such as parentheses, were changed, while symbols for brackets, quotation marks, dashes, and others were added.

1.2.2 The major changes of Advanced English Braille

Indicators: Bold, underline, and italics each has its own indicator in Advanced English Braille.

Math symbols: Operational symbols such as plus and equals were incorporated.

1.2.2 The major changes of Advanced English Braille

✍**Self-assessment**

1. Explain the reasons of English Advanced Braille

2. Discuss the major changes that Advanced English Braille made

☐ Unit summary

This unit discussed Advanced English Braille. Braille has codes for writing text, music, and even technical material for math and science. Text or literary braille has two forms. This was designed to deal with a wide range of subject matter at all levels of complexity.

☐ **Reflection questions**

1. Differentiate the most common types of English Braille

2. Explain English Braille Code Versions

3. Discuss the rationale of Advanced English Braille

4. Explain the major changes that Advanced English Braille made