# **Strategies in teaching Braille** Part 1

### **About Braille**

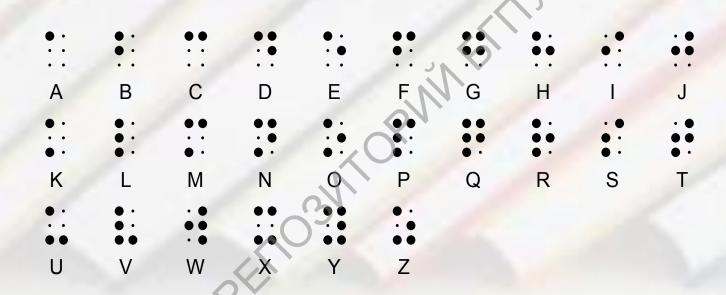
#### • Composition:

- six dots in vertical columns
- each column three dots high
- produces 63/64 (blank cell used as a space) one cell symbols

(10<sup>3</sup>)

6 6

## **Braille english alphabet**



### **Levels of Braille**

#### • Grade 1. Uncontracted Braille

- entirely spelled out
- consists of only the letters of the alphabet the numbers, and a few punctuation marks
- rarely used for published works
- o used on braille displays

### **Levels of Braille**

- Grade 2. Contracted Braille
  - english braille: 189 contractions
  - developed to reduce the size of books (approx.30%)
  - increases reading speed
  - used for most works of fiction and non-fiction, including textbooks
- Grade 3 Braille
  - o used in shorthand for taking personal notes
  - used in professions that contain word processing

### **Levels of Braille**

4

26

**B G** 

8

- Grade o / Computer Braille / 8-dot Braille (PC-Braille used in Europe):
  - consists of 8 dots to cover up the ASCII-Code (256 combinations possible)
  - o 1 to 1 representation of what is on the screen
  - o used with Computer Braille displays
- Last but not least...
  - science and mathematics notation music notation
    foreign language Braille

#### **Uniqueness of Braille**

#### Unique perceptual aspects

- needs more space
- lack of redundancy
- o total analysis of the cell is necessary
- complexity of code
- slowed recognition time: combination of dots makes one letter
- Braille reading rates are slower than those for print reading
- portrayal of print, with special rules and multiple uses of each sign (configuration)
- it is a code

#### **Visual Reading compared to Tactile Reading**

#### Visual reading

- in the centre of the human eye are about 140.000 rod and cone cells per square millimeter located
- simultaneous perceptions of various aspects of a single object or concept
- eyes cooperate independently
- Tactile reading
  - In fingertips the ends of tactual perception neurons are 1,2 millimeter apart from each other
  - the tactual sense requires that information must be derived by the exploration of one aspect at a time slowed recognition time
  - o cooperation between both hands has to be trained

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