Crack the Code

Teach yourself to sight read basic braille

Crack the Code

Puzzles with a purpose

All you need is a pencil

Produced and published by ClearVision and Linden Lodge School
61 Princes Way
London
SW19 6JB

Linden Lodge: 020 8788 0107
helen@lindenlodge.wandsworth.sch.uk

ClearVision: 020 8789 9575
info@clearvisionproject.org

Copyright © Marion Ripley and Helen Wythers 2009

Designed by Small World Design www.smallworlddesign.co.uk

This booklet can be photocopied provided no changes are made and no pages omitted.
Copies can be distributed on a not for sale basis only.
Learning braille

Braille is a system of raised symbols, which some people who are blind or partially-sighted learn to read with their fingertips. The words in braille go from left to right across the page, just like printed words.

Some people become very fast at reading braille and are able to read long books, such as Harry Potter. Other people just use braille for labelling, or for writing notes. For some children who are blind or partially-sighted, braille is the very best way to learn to read.

When sighted people look at a page of braille they see a mass of dots and it is hard to imagine ever reading it - by sight or by touch. But once you know what you are looking for it becomes much easier.

What is grade 1 braille?

There are two grades of braille. Grade 1 (also called ‘uncontracted braille’) is a straightforward code with one symbol for each letter of the alphabet, plus a few extra symbols for punctuation and numbers.

Grade 2 (‘contracted braille’) uses the same symbols for the letters of the alphabet but it has lots of extra signs for common words and combinations of letters. Grade 2 braille is quicker to read but takes longer to learn.

For more information about braille and a range of braille courses for visually-impaired and sighted adults and children, please contact the RNIB: 0845 766 9999
www.rnib.org.uk
How do the dots work?

The symbols which represent each letter are made up of between one and six dots, based on the pattern of the six dots you would see on a dice or a domino.

Each dot can be referred to by number. On a Perkins brailler the keys correspond to the individual dots as shown below.

If you are able to spend an hour or two with this puzzle book you will find, by the end, you can read a whole page of basic ‘grade 1’ braille with very little difficulty.
The Alphabet

A B C D E F G

1 Use a pencil or pen to copy the dots which make up the letters:

A B C D E F G

2 Here are the letters A-G again - but one letter is repeated. Which one?

3 Can you match the following words in print and braille?

cage bead face age

George said: "Okay, I hung up, counted to 30, and phoned the police again."

"Hello, we just shot all the people burgling my garage!" he told them and he hung up.

Within 30 minutes six squad cars, an armed response unit and an ambulance showed up.

Of course, the police caught the burglars red handed."
Here’s a bit more reading practice. The second part of the story looks more like embossed braille - the kind you will find in real braille books.

This is the true story of a man who woke at 2 in the morning and realised that thieves were breaking into his garage.

He immediately phoned the police, who asked was someone in your house?

George said no and explained the situation. Then they told him all patrols were busy but an officer would be there when available.

4 Can you read these sentences?

- bought him an Arsenal badge.
- He begged her to get into the cab.
- She met him at an Internet cafe.

5 Fill in the missing word - in braille!

- Delia Smith will teach you how to boil an
- Burgers are usually made from minced
- In card games, the highest (and lowest) scoring card is an
- David Beckham is Brooklyn Beckham’s

Finished this page? Congratulations - you have learned over a quarter of the alphabet!
You have learned these letters:

A B C D E F G

Now here are six more:

H I J K L M

6 Copy the dots which make up the letters:

H I J K L M

7 Find the opposites of these print words:

white low alive
her valley toe healthy
hill heel ill dead

black high him

25 The winning lottery numbers are 5 17 26 38 49.

Which of these numbers wasn’t a winning number?

CONGRATULATIONS!

You have cracked the code!
A Murder Mystery

When Michael Hill was found dead in Ed's Downtown Diner in Miami we did not know who to blame. Mike was no saint. He had blackmailed his brother and made his sister Gail lend him money which he gambled away. He made a fake insurance claim and was jailed in Gambia.

24 Fill in the missing numbers

For the emergency services dial

The Prime Minister lives at Downing Street.

James Bond is agent

Most men retire at age

And longer numbers just need one number sign at the beginning:

10 11 12

20 100 2009
he lied to his old dad, his marriage to Kim failed, and on one mad occasion he even hijacked a plane from Adelaide to Bali. Many people wanted to kill him. But who did the deed? Ed did!

And that's half the alphabet ..........

Under the bed and it had to poke her with a coat hanger to get her to come out...

Numbers

Lastly, you need to know a few numbers.

With the clever use of a number sign like this ♦ in front of them, the letters A to J become numbers - like this:

1 2 3 4 5
♦♦ ♦♦ ♦♦ ♦♦ ♦♦

6 7 8 9 0
♦♦ ♦♦ ♦♦ ♦♦ ♦♦
You have learned these letters:

A  B  C  D  E  F  G

H  I  J  K  L  M

Now here are seven more:

N  O  P  Q  R  S  T

9 Copy the dots which make up the letters:

N  O  P  Q  R  S  T

10 Find the shops!

Tesco  Iceland  Boots

Monsoon  John Barrods

Homebase  Topshop
23 And here’s a funny story for you!

A husband and wife were going out for the evening. The last thing they did was to put the cat out. The taxi arrived and, as the couple walked out of the house, the cat shot back in. So the husband went back inside to chase it out. The wife, not wanting...

11 Take another good look at the new letters. Now try to remember them and fill them in the spaces below:

N O P Q R S T

12 Wordsearch

Write these drinks in braille.

soda beer lager
tea cola port

Now find them in the box below, written across or down. Can you find one more drink in the box?
22 Now add the punctuation to this sentence:

You say “hello” and I say “goodbye.”

You might also need to recognise the apostrophe, which looks like this.

For example: It’s very warm in Zoe’s flat.

13 Fill in the braille punctuation in the following sentences:

I stopped at the shop to get eggs, cheese, milk and bread. Had I forgotten something important? Nappies? Soap? Potatoes? I know! Chocolate!
Braille produced for children usually shows which letters are capitals by putting a capital sign in front of them.

In this way, young braille users learn how to use capital letters themselves.

The sign to show a capital is like this:

In braille, speech starts with this sign

and ends with this one

21 Copy out this braille sentence, with punctuation.

“Women,” he said, “like sunbathing.”
19 The missing words all start with the same letter:

- People waiting in line is called a
- A competition with questions is a
- Where boats tie up is called a

20 Now here's a joke:

Doctor, doctor, every time I stand up quickly, I see Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

15 Fill in the names of famous people - not forgetting the capital sign. (Make up a name if you don’t know the answer!)

Oliver (chef)
Mandela (statesman)
Obama (US President)
Cruise (US actor)
Widdecombe (politician)
Harry (boy wizard)
Now for the last six letters. You have already learned these:

A B C D E F G
H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T

Now here are the last six:

U V W X Y Z

16 Copy the dots which make up the letters:

U V W X Y Z

17 Write your first name here (with a capital sign):

Write your child’s name here:

18 Circle your birthday month:

Where do you live?