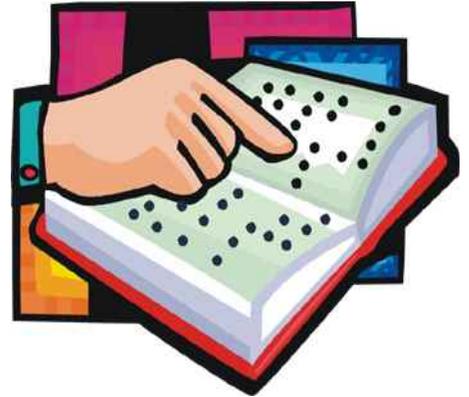


Reading Without Seeing

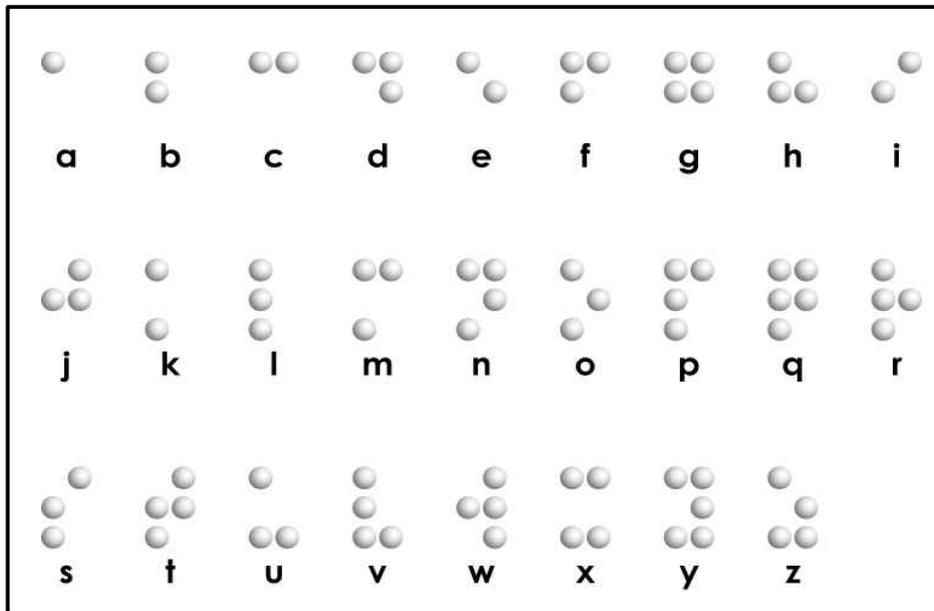
Did you know that blind people can read books? Even though they can't see, they do have a special system for reading that allows them to feel books and papers.

Close your eyes and feel a book. You probably can't feel the letters and words, can you? It would be impossible to read one of your books if you couldn't see. But what if the book has small dots that were bumps in the paper? You would be able to feel those. Now imagine the bumps are a code for letters.



Braille is the special alphabet that Blind people use to read. Each letter is made of small dots that rise out of the paper in a special pattern. Blind people read braille by using their fingers to feel each letter.

Here is a picture of what the patterns in the braille alphabet look like:

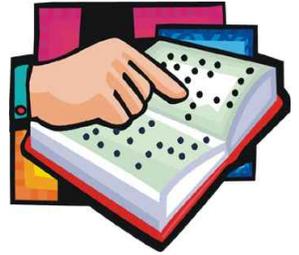


The braille alphabet was invented nearly 200 years ago by a blind man named Louis Braille. He wanted to be able to read and write just like everyone else. Since he couldn't see, he invented an alphabet made of dots.

Today, braille letters are found in books, on elevator buttons, on medicine boxes, and there are even braille computer keyboards. There are braille Monopoly boards. Disneyland has braille maps. Most McDonald's restaurants even have braille menus available for blind customers.

Braille Alphabet

Write some words in braille. Be sure you draw the dots carefully.
Be sure you leave spaces between each letter.



example:

L o u i s

Your first name:

Your last name:

Your favorite color:

Your favorite food:

Any word of your choice:

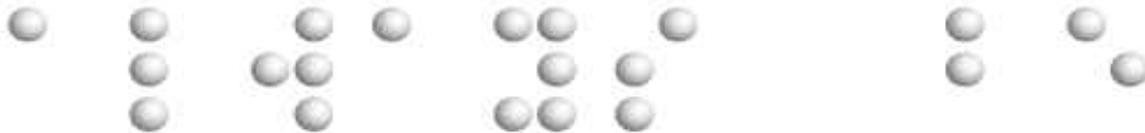
Braille Alphabet



Try to write three sentences using the braille alphabet. Be sure you leave spaces between your letters.

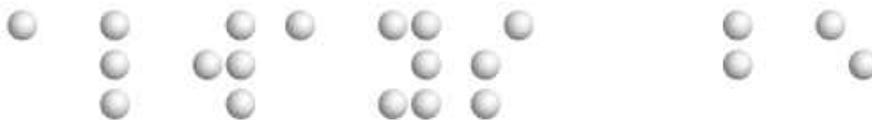
Braille Alphabet

Decode the message. Write the English letters below the braille letters.



Braille Alphabet

Decode the message. Write the English letters below the braille letters.



a l w a y s b e



k i n d t o



e v e r y o n e



y o u m e e t