

Lesson 7

Lower Wordsigns for *in, enough, be, his, was, were* Lower Groupsigns for *in, en, be, con, dis* Introduction to Shortforms

7.1 Definition of Lower Signs

In addition to the one-cell contractions already studied, there is another group of contractions known as lower signs. Combinations of dots which contain neither dot 1 nor dot 4 form these lower contractions. There are lower wordsigns and lower groupsigns. Following are the lower contractions that will be studied in this lesson.

<u>Contraction</u>	<u>Wordsign</u> <u>Meaning</u>	<u>Contraction</u>	<u>Groupsign</u> <u>Meaning</u>
⋮	in	⋮	in
⋮	enough	⋮	en
⋮	be	⋮	be
⋮	his	⋮	con
⋮	was	⋮	dis
⋮	were		

- Note that the WORDSIGNS *in, enough, and be* are the same as the groupsigns for *in, en, and be*.

Far-enough ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

When the wordsign for *enough* cannot be used, the groupsign for the letters *en* (to be studied next) is used.

"Enough!" ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

The lower wordsigns for *be*, *his*, *was*, *were*, and *enough* cannot be used next to a slash because they must always stand alone. Example:

his/hers ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ plenty/enough ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

7.4 In

The wordsign for *in* may be used wherever its word occurs, as long as the surrounding sequence contains upper dots. For example, the *in* wordsign may be used in *brother-in-law* or *in-depth*. It can be used next to a slash.

Drill 20

Practice braille the following sentences. Use a 3-1 margin.

1. Was the man who carried the child in his arms a fireman?
2. "I will be—er—in my study if you need me."
3. Do we have enough gas for the trip?
4. "In-and-out, in-and-out! Can't you decide what you want?"
5. The savagery of the fight was revolting (in fact, three people passed out).
6. That's what it was! A gray wolf hiding in the hedge.
7. Who did that—were you that person?
8. In spite of the fact that Michael was a stand-in for David, the play was a triumph.
9. Choose the correct answer: We was/were going in the morning.

7.5 Lower groupsigns [UEB §10.6]

7.5a In and En. The same braille configurations that represent the whole words *in* and *enough* are also used to represent the letters *in* and *en* as parts of words. Use these two lower groupsigns wherever the letters they represent occur, except when specific rules limit their use as discussed later.

19. I remember Aunt Inez and how she told me in her southern drawl, "Joy, for my biscuits you'll need the best flour and fine shortenin'."
20. Americans just weren't adequately prepared for the attack on Pearl Harbor and the events that followed.
21. The senator wasn't in, but his secretary greeted us warmly.
22. He finds the climate in Phoenix, Arizona, beneficial for his asthma.

7.7 Lower Groupsigns for *be*, *con*, *dis* [UEB §10.6]

7.7a As first syllable of word. The contractions for *be*, *con*, and *dis* are sometimes called the "leader" contractions because they are used only when they constitute a syllable and occur at the beginning of a word. Thus, these contractions are used in such words as *believe*, *conduct*, and *district*. They are not used in words such as *unbelievable*, *misconduct*, or *predisposed* where they do not occur at the beginning of the word. Nor are they used in such words as *bee*, *belligerent*, *conch*, and *disc* where other letters are included in the syllable; or in *disheveled* where all the letters do not fall in the same syllable.

These groupsigns can, however, be used when they constitute the first syllable of the second word of a hyphenated compound word such as *self-control* or *non-disposable*, since the second word is standing alone.

7.7b With punctuation. The contractions for *be*, *con*, and *dis* are used when punctuation comes before them. Examples:

"Control that dog!"

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(becoming, don't you think?)

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Do not use the groupsigns for *be*, *con*, and *dis* when punctuation or a capital indicator comes immediately after them. As a consequence, they are not used in syllabicated words. Examples:

[be]hold

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Con-rad!

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

dis'armony

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

object/concur

⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

7.7c The words *con* and *dis*. Remember that the contractions for *con* and *dis* are purely groupsigns and therefore cannot be used to represent the whole words *con* (as in the expression *pro and con*), or the slang expression *dis*.

Examples: con, (con)n(ing), conn(ed), dis, (dis)s(ing), diss(ed)

7.8 More on Lower Sign Rule

When two or more lower groupsigns would follow one another without being in contact with an upper dot, the *final* lower groupsign is not used. Example:

Stop bein' so silly! ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Drill 22

Practice brailleing the following sentences. Use a 1-3 margin.

1. I was disconcerted when I learned that residents of the District of Columbia were denied home rule until the twentieth century.
2. The chairman of the sub-committee on the conduct of wayward youth lost his self-control when the members became disorderly.
3. Credit is given Sir Francis Bacon for having originated the modern scientific method of thinking.
4. Sandy was bewitched, bothered and bewildered; Serena remained undisturbed.
5. Congress debated the issue pro and con for weeks.
6. Maybe we'll send Mary Contrary with you; she's bein' very disobedient.
7. Czech immigrants settled in Wisconsin.
8. Mandy's belligerent attitude is utterly inexplicable/confusing.

3. Disposing of this problem will not be quick and will require the combined efforts of all of us.
4. The politician's denial was disingenuous.
5. Betty's behavior in school was unbecoming for a child her age—maybe she'll improve next year.
6. Benedict's wife, who is the president of the Ladies Benevolent Society of St. John's Church, paid me a visit.
7. With considerable effort she regained her self-control and continued perusing the letter.
8. Most of the men who man our submarines are trained at New London, Conn.
9. Ben O'Connor, a good little guy, is my choice for the job – disregard the rumors of "history".
10. Constable Hemingway pointed his gun menacingly and ordered, "Quick! Come out from be'ind that bar!"

Reading Practice

Write the following sentences in print. Compare your work with the print version in Appendix A.

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1. The first paragraph of the story is very interesting. It tells us about the main character and the setting. The author uses a lot of descriptive language to make the scene come alive. We can almost see the characters and feel the atmosphere. This is a good example of how to write a compelling opening paragraph.

2. In the second paragraph, the author introduces the conflict of the story. The main character faces a difficult choice that will determine the outcome of the plot. This is a key moment in the story, and the author does a great job of building tension. We want to know what the character will do and what the consequences will be.

3. The third paragraph shows the character's internal struggle. The author uses a lot of dialogue and inner thoughts to reveal the character's personality and motivations. This is a great example of how to use dialogue to advance the plot and reveal character. The character's decision is a turning point in the story, and the author does a great job of showing the reader why the character made that choice.

EXERCISE

Prepare the following exercise for submission to the instructor. Use a 1-3 margin. After you have successfully completed this exercise, the instructor will provide you with a reading exercise to complete before proceeding to Lesson 8.

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1. Dickens and Thackeray were the two most outstanding British novelists of the nineteenth century.
2. Grandpa will be in his late seventies when I graduate from college.
3. The doctor was insistent that he not get out of bed until well enough.
4. He recited Tennyson's "In Memoriam" with intense feeling.
5. "The enormous volcano is erupting," enunciated the announcer.
6. Her prenatal exam shows that she has gastroenteritis.
7. We laughed as she told her tale—in a rather loud, animated, but humorous vein—involving her dog Buddy.
8. She says she feels insecure when she rides in a twin-engine plane.
9. When I've saved enough, I'll buy the entire set of J.K. Rowling from books_online.com for my grandchild.

10. Virgil's AENEID opens with the flight of the hero from Troy.
11. If he will take daily calisthenics for a few months his physique will be immensely strengthened.
12. A wooden peg used for joining timbers is called a treenail.
13. The renovated home was splendidly decorated in the style of the era.
14. I think the interior of PIANOBar on 5th St. needs a complete redesign — they haven't even repainted it since the 1960s.
15. When Mr. Engles retired he started delivering groceries for shut-ins.
16. Jane absolutely loved the linen suit her Mom sent her from Italy.
17. We felt very sad when the lovely coniferous tree fell down.
18. Benedict Arnold betrayed the United States when he surrendered West Point.
19. His boss said that my brother-in-law, Erin, wasn't responsible for the failure of the company.
20. "Which'll it be, madame, soda or ginger ale?" inquired the bespectacled waiter.
21. Study the following antonyms: in/out, his/hers, content/dismayed, nervous/composed.
22. Apparently the bill was paid, but the matter will be looked into by the agency.
23. Our officers' meeting will be chiefly concerned with considering the new budget.
24. The lines of the pattern are very subtle and indistinct.
25. The denial of freedom of the press is a distinctly totalitarian phenomenon.
26. I find things like trinomials and logarithms a constant enigma.
27. I left the dinghy on the side of the Wisconsin River and continued my journey on foot.
28. "You be good an' come out quick with yer hands up," said the sheriff, "or I'm comin' in and git yuh."
29. As a Naval ex-commander, John Jamison of Jamestown was a firm believer in discipline.
30. Intercontinental flights arrive hourly at Dulles Airport.

31. The auto crash left his hair disheveled and his clothing in disarray.
32. As the strutting cockney orator took his place on the rostrum, he began: "On be'alf of all decent Henglishmen I protest this insolent be'avior of the 'Ouse of Commons!"
33. In a closely-contested race, O'Connor (his twitter handle is @OconnorDFL) was chosen Congressman from the 1st Dist. of Iowa.
34. That was intended as a tribute, not a dis.
35. When she arrived at the studio, she discovered a hastily-scribbled note that said, "CALLED OUT OF TOWN UNEXPECTEDLY; FOR NEXT LESSON PRACTICE MOZART'S CON. NO. 18."
36. If Leslie remains very patient, maybe Mr. Drew will change his mind and write her that letter (with \$50.00 enclosed).
37. By constantly reminding us to "overcome," Martin Luther King gave us hope and pride.
38. His behavior denoted that Adam was continually undismayed at the most unexpected outcome.

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