

## Lesson 6

### Strong Groupsigns for *ar, ed, er, gh, ow, ing*

#### 6.1 In General [UEB §10.4]

The following contractions have the same meaning whether used as groupsigns or as wordsigns—they represent the same letter sequences whether they are standing alone or not.

| <b>Groupsign</b> | <b><u>Meaning</u></b> |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| ∴                | ar                    |
| ∴                | ed                    |
| ∴                | er                    |
| ∴                | gh                    |
| ∴                | ow                    |
| ∴                | ing                   |

In general, these groupsigns are used wherever the letters they represent occur. Thus:

the *ed* groupsign is used in:

Edith (Ed)i(th), need ne(ed), Ed (Ed) [proper name],  
edelweiss (ed)elweiss, sedan s(ed)an,  
red r(ed), reduce r(ed)uce, boredom bor(ed)om

the sign for *ar* is used in:

Arkansas (Ar)kansas, cheddar (ch)(ed)d(ar), garbage g(ar)bage,  
bare b(ar)e, around (ar)ound

the sign for *er* is used in:

error (er)ror, whimper (wh)imp(er), fern f(er)n, Peru P(er)u,  
sherry (sh)(er)ry, er (er) [vocal sound], derail d(er)ail,  
erase (er)ase, imagery imag(er)y

the sign for *gh* is used in:

ghoulish (gh)(ou)li(sh), laugh lau(gh), sight si(gh)t,  
thorough (th)or(ou)(gh)

the sign for *ow* is used in:

own (ow)n, towel t(ow)el, show (sh)(ow), toward t(ow)(ar)d,  
ow (ow) [exclamation], drowsy dr(ow)sy

the sign for *ing* is used in:

swinging sw(ing)(ing), ginger g(ing)(er), finger f(ing)(er), fringe  
fr(ing)e

**6.1a Solid Compound Words.** As has been stated previously, contractions are not used where they fall partly into one component of a solid compound word and partly into another. Thus, the sign for *ed* is not used in *kettledrum*, the sign for *er* is not used in *stateroom*, the sign for *th* is not used in *sweetheart*, and the sign for *gh* is not used in *foghorn*. Nor is the *st* contracted in proper names such as *Johnstown* or *Charlestown*. (Note, however, that when such names are shortened to *Johnston* or *Charleston*, the *st* contraction is used.)

**6.1b Aspirated h.** Do not use the strong groupsigns for *ch*, *gh*, *sh*, *th*, and *wh*, or the strong contraction for *the*, when the *h* is pronounced like the *h* in *hat* (aspirated). Thus, these contractions should not be used in words like *Shanghai* or *mishandle*.

### Drill 18

Practice brailleing the following sentences.

1. Our corner drugstore is having a big sale on toothbrushes, cigars, bath powder, cigarette lighters, dishes, thimbles and needles.
2. The Hagerstown Almanac predicts snow for March 29.
3. If my salary is reduced by \$3,000, we can't redecorate the living room as planned.
4. Ed Anderson derived a huge profit from the sale of barley last year.
5. "Will you erase the blackboard, Lonnie, and redo the lesson?"
6. Victorian ladies loved battledore, a game played with a racket and a shuttlecock.
7. She copied her reply to scary@ghosts.com.
8. The colony Sir Walter Raleigh sponsored at Roanoke predated the Jamestown colony.
9. A thorough knowledge of the Spanish language is a prerequisite for the South American service.

10. "What a hat — it's absolutely smashing!"
11. The Russians slaughtered the Hungarian Freedom Fighters with tanks and artillery.
12. THE TEMPEST is full of striking imagery.
13. The blast of the foghorn warned of lurking danger.
14. The tuberose is a fragrant, white, lily-like flower.
15. Our new neighbors came from the town of Rosedale, Michigan.
16. He plans on making a career of aerodynamics.
17. Dick Hoerner starred for the Los Angeles Rams.
18. The Roman aedile supervised the games at the Colosseum.
19. Shanghai is a port on the Huangpu River.
20. Carol arose early this morning and studied for the arithmetic test.

## 6.2 *Ing* at the Beginning of a Word [UEB §10.4.3, 10.13.4]

There is one restriction on the use of the sign for *ing* that does not apply to the other contractions in this lesson, namely, that it is not used at the beginning of a word. Thus, the sign for *ing* is not used in *ingot* or *ingredient*. Even when such a word comes after the hyphen in a hyphenated compound word, as in *super-ingenious*, or when a word is divided between print pages (to be studied later), the contraction cannot be used.

## 6.3 Choice Between Alternative Contractions [UEB §10.10.3]

**6.3a Preference for Contractions Saving Greater Space.** Where a choice must be made between two alternative contractions or combinations of contractions, preference should be given to that contraction or combination of contractions that saves the greater amount of space. Examples:

|            |                |          |
|------------|----------------|----------|
| ba(the)s   | [ <i>not</i> ] | ba(th)es |
| (with)(er) | [ <i>not</i> ] | wi(the)r |

**6.3b Preference for the Contractions *and*, *for*, *of*, *the*, and *with*.** Where alternative contractions or combinations of them would occupy the same amount of space, preference is given to the strong group signs *and*, *for*, *of*, *the*, and *with*. Examples:

|            |                |              |
|------------|----------------|--------------|
| bro(the)r  | [ <i>not</i> ] | bro(th)(er)  |
| nor(the)rn | [ <i>not</i> ] | nor(th)(er)n |
| soo(the)d  | [ <i>not</i> ] | soo(th)(ed)  |

## 6.4 1-3 Indention [BF §1.4.3]

To this point you have been instructed to indent the first line of a paragraph so that it starts in cell 3 and the runover lines begin in cell 1. Often, in print, the first line of an item in a list of sentences begins at the margin, with runover lines indented. When such indention occurs in print, it should be represented in braille with the first line of an item starting in cell 1 and runover lines taken to cell 3. Multiple levels of indention will be studied in later lessons.

### Drill 19

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

1. Ginger ale will quiet an upset stomach now and then.
2. "I Got Spurs That Jingle Jangle Jingle" sings the carefree western cowhand.
3. Her hair is slightly tinged with gray, but her eyes have the sparkle of youth.
4. During the storm the gale blew all the flower pots off the front porch.
5. While visiting Switzerland, we learned that the edelweiss is a favorite flower of that area.
6. Aloysius is a brilliant scholar, but he will not study without coercion.
7. Ed's plane landed on the fringe of the runway.
8. I didn't like boxing practice last week; it left me with a nosebleed.
9. Though the policeman is tough, he is fair.
10. Frederick's nostrils savored the tantalizing aroma of coffee arising from the downstairs flat.
11. "Ow!" shouted the professor as he dropped the stack of books.
12. "Let's see," pondered Jerry, "it's—er—four more weeks until school is out."

13. She gave Steve a withering look and exclaimed, "I wish you'd bathe every now and then!"
14. The seductive perfume of flowers filled the night air.
15. The cricket is the harbinger of the early approach of the fall of the year.
16. Erika gave a sigh of boredom as she waited for the others.

### Reading Practice

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

She gave Steve a withering look and exclaimed, "I wish you'd bathe every now and then!"

The seductive perfume of flowers filled the night air.

The cricket is the harbinger of the early approach of the fall of the year.

Erika gave a sigh of boredom as she waited for the others.

Braille text consisting of multiple lines of characters.

### EXERCISE

Prepare the following exercise for submission to the instructor. Use a 3-1 margin for this exercise; you will use the 1-3 format in later exercises. After you have successfully completed this exercise, your instructor will provide you with a reading exercise to complete before proceeding to Lesson 7.

### LESSON 6

1. "The moving finger writes and having writ moves on."—Omar Khayyam
2. The town sorely needed more civic progress and a change of politicians.
3. The remark Meg made is far from flattering, I can assure you.
4. George Washington, a redoubtable soldier, excelled as a statesman as well.
5. Jack says the towhee resembles the sparrow, but I don't agree.
6. The volcano erupted, causing serious loss of life and property.
7. The Atlantic Charter proclaimed the "Four Freedoms."
8. The new doghouse will keep Rover warm during the cold months.
9. Power down all laptop computers, and stow tray tables for landing.
10. The kettledrums are slightly off pitch, but once we get them fixed nobody will call our orchestra mediocre.
11. Gramp's old radio has an outside aerial.
12. They practiced riflery at SPORTSRange for an hour.
13. As the waitress set the salad on the table, he looked at it curiously and queried, "Did I order this, or—er—did another person want it?"

14. The Romans respected the aediles, who kept law and order.
15. Michael's Airedale, Bingo, won 4th prize at the neighborhood dog show.
16. The tiger is a predacious animal.
17. Boys shanghaied on the streets of Liverpool served on sailing ships.
18. The two outstanding track stars will rerun the hundred-meter dash.
19. Harry feels Margaret sings like a mockingbird, but Paul has another idea.
20. We have to eradicate all of the terrorist groups from this land by next year.
21. Stieg Larsson's THE GIRL WHO KICKED THE HORNETS' NEST is the third book of the trilogy.
22. Are you taking a stateroom for the overnight trip?
23. On arriving at Singapore, Edmond emailed the Chicago office for further orders.
24. Roger Babson predicted the stock market crash of 1929.
25. Our proceeds from the last fantasy football game exceeded anything we anticipated.
26. While visiting Cairo I arose at five for the purpose of hearing the prayer call from the mosque.
27. Any adverse criticism of America's foreign policy arouses Howard's anger.
28. "Ow!" cried Ed, as the doctor roughly removed the bandage.
29. OEDIPUS REX is a famous tragedy of Sophocles.
30. The plants are withered from lack of water.
31. The melody of The Lost Chord soothes and relaxes my tired nerves.
32. The COURIER-JOURNAL carried a scathing editorial on the abuse of the magistrate's prerogatives.
33. He spoke eruditely and with fervor on the art of the Edwardian Era.
34. Eddie, Sherry, and Edythe will go downhill skiing on the 17th of March.
35. The dignified Duchess hired a sedan chair for her tour of Shanghai.
36. The doctor ordered a sedative for the hysterical victim.

## SUMMARY: PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

Below is a summary of some of the important concepts in contraction usage that have been studied thus far:

- A wordsign is a contraction that represents an entire word. A groupsign represents two or more letters that are part of a word. Some contractions have both a wordsign and a groupsign meaning.
- A word (or, more precisely, a "letters-sequence") is considered to be *standing alone* if it is both preceded and followed by a space, a hyphen, or a dash. The letters-sequence is still considered standing alone if some specific symbols or indicators are placed between it and the dash, hyphen or space that comes before or after it. Some of the symbols and indicators that can be placed at the beginning of a word include opening quotation marks, capital indicator, opening parentheses, and others to be studied later. Those that can be at the end of the word before the space, hyphen or dash include the period, comma, question mark, colon, semicolon, closing quotation mark, closing parenthesis, and others which have not yet been studied. If a slash, capital indicator, period, number, or other non-alphabetic symbol appears within the word, then that word is not standing alone. See UEB §2.6 for the complete standing alone rule.
- Wordsigns may be used as such only if they are standing alone.
- Alphabetic and strong wordsigns may also be used if they are followed by *'d, 'll, 're, 's, 't* or *'ve*; these words are still considered standing alone (UEB §2.6.4).
- Groupsigns may not be used if their letters overlap the components of a solid compound word.
- If there is a choice of contractions, the strong groupsigns *and, for, of, the, and with* should be chosen unless another choice would result in fewer cells used.
- The groupsigns *the, ch, gh, sh, th, and wh* should not be used if the h is aspirated.
- Groupsigns may not be used if their letters are part of an ordinal number (no contractions are used in numeric mode).
- If a contraction's wordsign meaning is different from its groupsign meaning, the groupsign is not used when the letters it represents are standing alone.
- The strong groupsign *ing* may not be used at the beginning of a word.

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