

Library-Iowa Department for the Blind
Denise Bean
denise.bean@blind.state.ia.us

Weekly Dose 5 Basic Indicators

RULE Use an indicator to establish the mode which determines the meaning of the braille signs which follow.

The list below gives the basic indicators and the modes which they set.

- ⠼⠼ Sets shape mode: Shape Symbols and Composite Symbols
- ⠼⠼ Sets arrow mode: Arrows
- ⠼⠼ Sets numeric mode and grade 1 mode: Numeric Mode
- ⠼⠼⠼ Opens and sets horizontal line mode: Line Mode, Guide Dots
- ⠼⠼ Sets grade 1 mode: Grade 1 Mode

REMEMBER, the braille reader determines the meaning of a braille sign in several ways:

- by how it is spaced
- by applying the Standing Alone rule
- by its position in relation to other signs
- by the mode in effect

Every dot has meaning and conveys a message, some may call this teamwork!

Source: Unified English Braille