

## Weekly Dose Columns and Guide Dots

RULE Related columns contain items that directly relate to items in an adjacent column or across a row of columns. The relationship must be maintained. Parallel items in each column must *begin* on the same braille line even though there may be a runover in some lines. If there are too many related columns for a braille page.

RULE Guide dots (dot 5s) are used in order to help the reader follow a braille line across from a short item in one column to an entry in the next column. Do not use guide dots if there is not room for a space at the end of the entry, *two* guide dots, and the required two cells between columns.

Example:

It is important to make a list of scientific names before you learn more about each animal at the zoo.

*Reptiles* section 7    turtles, snakes, geckos,  
*Birds* section 8     owls, parrots, penguins  
*Cats* section 5      lions, tigers, bobcats, jaguar

The image shows the text from the previous block rendered in Braille. It consists of two rows of text. The first row contains three columns of text: 'Reptiles section 7', 'turtles, snakes, geckos,', and 'Birds section 8'. The second row contains three columns: 'owls, parrots, penguins', 'Cats section 5', and 'lions, tigers, bobcats, jaguar'. Guide dots (dot 5s) are used to connect the end of one column to the start of the next in the same row, ensuring the reader can follow the text across columns. For example, in the first row, a guide dot is placed at the end of 'Reptiles section 7' to connect to the start of 'turtles, snakes, geckos,'.

Source: *Braille Formats* 11.2.1 and 11.12.