

Weekly Dose Unknown Pronunciation

Question

What should a braille transcriber or proofreader do when they are uncertain how a word is pronounced, let alone how to transcribe the material? Especially when it comes to contractions. The *Preference Rule* states that a contraction is not to be used when it would "hinder the recognition of the word."

Guideline

When the word is unfamiliar and when the pronunciation or syllabification is unknown and difficult to ascertain, then **it is permissible** for contraction use to be based on the best judgment of the transcriber and/or proofreader. When translation software is being used, its contraction usage may be followed.

Example:

Townshend ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠ [or] ⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Source: Rules of Unified English Braille 10.12.6 and 10.12.7