

# Quotation marks and apostrophes in UEB

## The problem

The International Council on English Braille (ICEB) is reviewing the braille signs used to represent the apostrophe and quotation marks in Unified English Braille (UEB).

In print, the apostrophe is represented using the same or similar symbol as single quotation marks. In braille, these identical print symbols are represented with different braille symbols according to their meaning. Intervention may be required from braille transcribers to obtain correct braille, and automated braille generated for use on a refreshable braille display can contain errors.

This document gives four options for alternative representations of the apostrophe and quotation marks in UEB. Please read the document carefully and share your opinion with us via the online survey at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/UEB-apostrophe](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UEB-apostrophe). The UEB Code Maintenance Committee will consider your responses in deciding whether to change the signs used for apostrophe and quotes.

Briefly, the braille output may depend on how the print has been generated: with 'straight' or 'directional' apostrophes and single quotes. Different countries and publishers may use "double" or 'single' quotes as their predominant quotes with the other kind used as inner quotes (quotes within a quote). Apostrophes may therefore be the same print sign as the predominant or inner quotes.

Sounds complicated? Suffice it to say, all these variations are routinely found in print and it can currently lead to braille errors.

This document concentrates on how the braille might appear. If you would like more technical information about the problem, including a longer list of examples and how they are encoded in print, please contact [ueb@iceb.org](mailto:ueb@iceb.org).









