



Screen Reader Character Reading: Reference Guide

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Project Scope

TFA updated a screen reader character reading reference guide, which was originally created in 2008 by Accessible Culture, a currently an inactive webpage. This new reference guide was tested with the latest version of JAWS (v. 2023), with NVDA (v. 2022), and with Voiceover on iOS.

It is important to note that much of the reading of specific characters is controlled or influenced by the text-to-speech engine, or the synthesizer in use, rather than by the screen reader.

Overall, there has been significant improvement in the accessibility of general punctuation and characters, mathematical symbols, as well as Latin and Greek symbols. As a result of these advances in screen reader capabilities, the majority of these symbols no longer require alternate text to be conveyed properly to screen reader users.

Accessibility Evaluation Methodology

Screen reader testing of the characters in the pages that follow was conducted in the Windows environment using the following screen readers:

- JAWS 2023 with the Eloquence text-to-speech synthesizer;
- NVDA (2022) with the eSpeakNG text-to-speech synthesizer;

Testing was also conducted using iOS 16.3.1 and the Voiceover screen reader with the standard English (U.S.) text-to-speech synthesizer.

The full list of characters and screen reader testing results are presented below.

ISO 8859-1 Characters

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS Voiceover (English U.S.)
no-break space = non-breaking space		 	 	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN
inverted exclamation mark	¡	¡	¡	inverted exclaim	inverted exclamation	inverted exclamation mark
cent sign	¢	¢	¢	cents	cents	cent sign
pound sign	£	£	£	pounds	pound	pound sign
currency sign	¤	¤	¤	symbol	currency sign	currency sign
yen sign = yuan sign	¥	¥	¥	yen	yen	yen sign
broken bar = broken vertical bar		¦	¦	broken bar	broken bar	broken bar
section sign	§	§	§	section	section	section sign
diaeresis = spacing diaeresis	..	¨	¨	diaeresis	diaeresis	diaeresis
copyright sign	©	©	©	copyright	copyright	copyright
feminine ordinal indicator	ª	ª	ª	superscript ay	ª	feminine ordinal
left-pointing double angle quotation mark = left pointing guillemet	«	«	«	left double angle bracket	double left pointing angle bracket	left double arrows
not sign	¬	¬	¬	optional hyphen	not	not

soft hyphen = discretionary hyphen	-	­	­	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN
registered sign = registered trade mark sign	®	®	®	registered	registered	registered Sign
macron = spacing macron = overline = APL overbar	—	¯	¯	macron	macron	macron
degree sign	°	°	°	degrees	degrees	degrees
plus-minus sign = plus-or-minus sign	±	±	±	plus or minus	plus or minus	plus or Minus
superscript two = superscript digit two = squared	²	²	²	superscript two	superscript two	superscript two
superscript three = superscript digit three = cubed	³	³	³	superscript three	superscript three	superscript three
acute accent = spacing acute	'	´	´	acute accent	acute	acute accent
micro sign	µ	µ	µ	mu	micro	micro
pilcrow sign = paragraph sign	¶	¶	¶	paragraph	paragraph marker	pilcrow
middle dot = Georgian comma = Greek middle dot	·	·	·	dot	middle dot	middle dot
cedilla = spacing cedilla	,	¸	¸	cedilla	cedilla	cedilla
superscript one = superscript digit one	¹	¹	¹	superscript one	superscript one	superscript one

masculine ordinal indicator	º	º	º	degrees	superscript o	masculine ordinal
right-pointing double angle quotation mark = right pointing guillemet	»	»	»	right double angle bracket	double right pointing angle bracket	right double arrows
vulgar fraction one quarter = fraction one quarter	¼	¼	¼	one fourth	one quarter, was a quarter	one fourth
vulgar fraction one half = fraction one half	½	½	½	one half	one half	one half
vulgar fraction three quarters = fraction three quarters	¾	¾	¾	three fourths	three quarters	three fourths
inverted question mark = turned question mark	¿	¿	¿	inverted question	inverted question mark	inverted question mark
latin capital letter A with grave = latin capital letter A grave	À	À	À	Ay gràve	ah	A grave
latin capital letter A with acute	Á	Á	Á	Ay acute	Ay acute	cap A acute
latin capital letter A with circumflex	Â	Â	Â	Ay circumflex	Ay circumflex	cap A circumflex
latin capital letter A with tilde	Ã	Ã	Ã	Ay tilda	Ay tilda	cap A tilda
latin capital letter A with diaeresis	Ä	Ä	Ä	Ay umlaut	Ay umlaut	cap A diaeresis

latin capital letter A with ring above = latin capital letter A ring	Å	Å	Å	Ay	Ay ring	cap a ring above
latin capital letter AE = latin capital ligature AE	Æ	Æ	Æ	Ay E	ligature AE	cap a e
latin capital letter C with cedilla	Ç	Ç	Ç	C cedilla	C cedilla	cap C cedilla
latin capital letter E with grave	È	È	È	E gràve	E gràve	cap E grave
latin capital letter E with acute	É	É	É	E acute	E acute	cap E acute
latin capital letter E with circumflex	Ê	Ê	Ê	E circumflex	E circumflex	cap E circumflex
latin capital letter E with diaeresis	Ë	Ë	Ë	E umlaut	E umlaut	cap E diaeresis
latin capital letter I with grave	Ì	&lgrave;	Ì	I gràve	I gràve	cap I grave
latin capital letter I with acute	Í	í	Í	I acute	I acute	cap I acute
latin capital letter I with circumflex	Î	&lcirc;	Î	I circumflex	I circumflex	cap I circumflex
latin capital letter I with diaeresis	Ï	ï	Ï	I umlaut	I umlaut	cap I diaeresis
latin capital letter ETH	Ð	Ð	Ð	Eth	Eth	cap eth
latin capital letter N with tilde	Ñ	Ñ	Ñ	Any	N tilda	cap N tilda
latin capital letter O with grave	Ò	Ò	Ò	O gràve	O gràve	cap O grave

latin capital letter O with acute	Ó	Ó	Ó	O acute	O acute	cap O acute
latin capital letter O with circumflex	Ô	Ô	Ô	O circumflex	O circumflex	cap O circumflex
latin capital letter O with tilde	Õ	Õ	Õ	O tilde	O tilde	cap O tilde
latin capital letter O with diaeresis	Ö	Ö	Ö	O umlaut	O umlaut	cap O diaeresis
multiplication sign	×	×	×	times	times	times
latin capital letter O with stroke = latin capital letter O slash	Ø	Ø	Ø	O	O stroke	cap O stroke
latin capital letter U with grave	Ù	Ù	Ù	U gràve	U gràve	cap U grave
latin capital letter U with acute	Ú	Ú	Ú	U acute	U acute	cap U acute
latin capital letter U with circumflex	Û	Û	Û	U circumflex	U circumflex	cap U circumflex
latin capital letter U with diaeresis	Ü	Ü	Ü	U umlaut	U umlaut	cap U diaeresis
latin capital letter Y with acute	Ý	Ý	Ý	y acute	y acute	cap Y acute
latin capital letter THORN	Þ	Þ	Þ	thorn	thorn	thorn
latin small letter sharp s = ess-zed	ß	ß	ß	ess zed	Sharp ess	sharp S
latin small letter a with grave = latin small letter a grave	à	à	à	ay gràve	ah	A grave
latin small letter a with acute	á	á	á	ay acute	ah acute	A acute

latin small letter a with circumflex	â	â	â	ay circumflex	ay circumflex	A circumflex
latin small letter a with tilde	ã	ã	ã	ay tilda	ay tilda	A tilda
latin small letter a with diaeresis	ä	ä	ä	ay umlaut	ay umlaut	A diaeresis
latin small letter a with ring above = latin small letter a ring	å	å	å	ay	ay ring	a ring above
latin small letter ae = latin small ligature ae	æ	æ	æ	ay e	a e	a e
latin small letter c with cedilla	ç	ç	ç	c cedilla	c cedilla	C cedilla
latin small letter e with grave	è	è	è	e gràve	e gràve	E grave
latin small letter e with acute	é	é	é	e acute	e acute	E acute
latin small letter e with circumflex	ê	ê	ê	e circumflex	e circumflex	E circumflex
latin small letter e with diaeresis	ë	ë	ë	e umlaut	e umlaut	E diaeresis
latin small letter i with grave	ì	ì	ì	i gràve	i gràve	I grave
latin small letter i with acute	í	í	í	i acute	i acute	I acute
latin small letter i with circumflex	î	î	î	i circumflex	i circumflex	I circumflex
latin small letter i with diaeresis	ï	ï	ï	i umlaut	i umlaut	I diaeresis
latin small letter eth	ð	ð	ð	eth	eth	eth

latin small letter n with tilde	ñ	ñ	ñ	any	n tilda	N tilda
latin small letter o with grave	ò	ò	ò	o gràve	o gràve	O grave
latin small letter o with acute	ó	ó	ó	o acute	o acute	O acute
latin small letter o with circumflex	ô	ô	ô	o circumflex	o circumflex	O circumflex
latin small letter o with tilde	õ	õ	õ	o tilda	o tilda	O tilda
latin small letter o with diaeresis	ö	ö	ö	o umlaut	o umlaut	O diaeresis
division sign	÷	÷	÷	divided by	divide by	divided by
latin small letter o with stroke = latin small letter o slash	ø	ø	ø	o	o stroke	O stroke
latin small letter u with grave	ù	ù	ù	u gràve	u gràve	U grave
latin small letter u with acute	ú	ú	ú	u acute	u acute	U acute
latin small letter u with circumflex	û	û	û	u circumflex	u circumflex	U circumflex
latin small letter u with diaeresis	ü	ü	ü	u umlaut	u umlaut	U diaeresis
latin small letter y with acute	ý	ý	ý	y acute	y acute	Y acute
latin small letter thorn	þ	þ	þ	thorn	thorn	thorn
latin small letter y with diaeresis	ÿ	ÿ	ÿ	y diaeresis	y umlaut	Y diaeresis

Greek Symbols

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
greek capital letter alpha	A	Α	alpha	alpha	alpha
greek capital letter beta	B	Β	beta	beta	beta
greek capital letter gamma	Γ	Γ	gamma	gamma	gamma
greek capital letter delta	Δ	Δ	delta	delta	delta
greek capital letter epsilon	Ε	Ε	epsilon	epsilon	epsilon
greek capital letter zeta	Ζ	Ζ	zeta	zeta	zeta
greek capital letter eta	Η	Η	E T A	eta	eta
greek capital letter theta	Θ	Θ	theta	theta	theta
greek capital letter iota	Ι	&lota;	iota	iota	iota
greek capital letter kappa	Κ	Κ	kappa	kappa	kappa
greek capital letter lambda	Λ	Λ	lambda	lambda	lambda
greek capital letter mu	Μ	Μ	mu	mu	mu

greek capital letter nu	Ν	Ν	nu	nu	nu
greek capital letter xi	Ξ	Ξ	xi	xi	xi
greek capital letter omicron	Ο	Ο	omicron	omicron	omicron
greek capital letter pi	Π	Π	pi	pi	pi
greek capital letter rho	Ρ	Ρ	rho	rho	rho
greek capital letter sigma	Σ	Σ	sigma	sigma	sigma
greek capital letter tau	Τ	Τ	tau	tau	tau
greek capital letter upsilon	Υ	Υ	upsilon	upsilon	upsilon
greek capital letter phi	Φ	Φ	phi	phi	phi
greek capital letter chi	Χ	Χ	chi	chi	chi
greek capital letter psi	Ψ	Ψ	psi	psi	psi
greek capital letter omega	Ω	Ω	omega	omega	omega
greek small letter alpha	α	α	alpha	alpha	alpha
greek small letter beta	β	β	beta	beta	beta
greek small letter gamma	γ	γ	gamma	gamma	gamma
greek small letter delta	δ	δ	delta	delta	delta

greek small letter epsilon	ε	ε	epsilon	epsilon	epsilon
greek small letter zeta	ζ	ζ	zeta	zeta	zeta
greek small letter eta	η	η	E T A	eta	eta
greek small letter theta	θ	θ	theta	theta	theta
greek small letter iota	ι	ι	iota	iota	iota
greek small letter kappa	κ	κ	kappa	kappa	kappa
greek small letter lambda	λ	λ	lambda	lambda	lambda
greek small letter mu	μ	μ	mu	mu	mu
greek small letter nu	ν	ν	nu	nu	nu
greek small letter xi	ξ	ξ	xi	xi	xi
greek small letter omicron	\o	ο	omicron	omicron	omicron
greek small letter pi	π	π	pi	pi	pi
greek small letter rho	ρ	ρ	rho	rho	rho
greek small letter final sigma	ς	ς	final sigma	sigma	final sigma
greek small letter sigma	σ	σ	sigma	sigma	sigma

greek small letter tau	T	τ	tau	tau	tau
greek small letter upsilon	U	υ	upsilon	upsilon	upsilon
greek small letter phi	Φ	φ	phi	phi	phi
greek small letter chi	X	χ	chi	chi	chi
greek small letter psi	Ψ	ψ	psi	psi	psi
greek small letter omega	ω	ω	omega	omega	omega
greek small letter theta symbol	ϑ	ϑ	NOT SPOKEN	Letter 3D1	Greek theta symbol
greek epsilon with hook symbol	ϒ	ϒ	NOT SPOKEN	Letter 3D2	Greek epsilon with hook symbol
greek pi symbol	ϖ	ϖ	NOT SPOKEN	Letter 3D6	Greek Pi symbol

General Punctuation

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
bullet = black small circle	•	•	•	bullet	bullet	bullet
horizontal ellipsis = three dot leader	...	…	…	ellipsis	dot dot dot	ellipsis
prime = minutes = feet	'	′	′	prime	prime	apostrophe
double prime = seconds = inches	"	″	″	double prime	double prime	quotation mark
overline = spacing overscore	-	‾	‾	overline	overline	overline
fraction slash	/	⁄	⁄	fraction slash	divided by	fraction slash

Letter-like Symbols

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
script capital P = power set = Weierstrass p	∅	℘	℘	P	power set of the set	NOT SPOKEN
blackletter capital I = imaginary part	ℑ	ℑ	ℑ	I	imaginary part of complex number	NOT SPOKEN
blackletter capital R = real part symbol	ℜ	ℜ	ℜ	R	real part of complex number	blackletter capital R
trade mark sign	™	™	™	trademark	trademark	trademark
alef symbol = first transfinite cardinal	ℵ	ℵ	ℵ	NOT SPOKEN	alef number	alef symbol

Arrows

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
leftwards arrow	←	←	←	leftwards arrow	left arrow	left arrow
upwards arrow	↑	↑	↑	upwards arrow	up arrow	up arrow
rightwards arrow	→	→	→	rightwards arrow	right arrow	right arrow
downwards arrow	↓	↓	↓	downwards arrow	down arrow	down arrow
left right arrow	↔	↔	↔	left right arrow	left right arrow	left right arrow
downwards arrow with corner leftwards = carriage return	↙	↵	↵	downwards arrow with corner leftwards	downwards arrow corner leftwards	downwards arrow with corner leftwards
leftwards double arrow	⇐	⇐	⇐	leftwards double arrow	is implied by	left double arrow
upwards double arrow	↑↑	⇑	⇑	upwards double arrow	upwards double arrow	upwards double arrow
rightwards double arrow	⇒	⇒	⇒	rightwards double arrow	double right arrow	right double arrow
downwards double arrow	↓↓	⇓	⇓	downwards double arrow	downwards double arrow	downwards double arrow
left right double arrow	↔↔	⇔	⇔	left right double arrow	left right double arrow	NOT SPOKEN

Mathematical Operators

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
for all	∀	∀	∀	for all	for all	for all
partial differential	∂	∂	∂	partial differential	partial derivative	partial differential
there exists	∃	∃	∃	there exists	there exists	there exists
empty set = null set = diameter	∅	∅	∅	empty set	empty set	empty set
nabla = backward difference	∇	∇	∇	nabla	radiant of	vector differential
element of	∈	∈	∈	element of	element of	element of
not an element of	∉	∉	∉	not an element of	not an element of	not element of
contains as member	∋	∋	∋	contains as member	contains as member	contains as member
n-ary product = product sign	∏	∏	∏	n ary product	n ary product	product
n-ary summation	∑	∑	∑	n ary summation	n ary summation	summation
minus sign	−	−	−	minus	minus	minus
asterisk operator	*	∗	∗	asterisk	asterisk operator	asterisk operator
square root = radical sign	√	√	√	square root	square root	square root
proportional to	∞	∝	∝	proportional to	proportional to	proportional to
infinity	∞	∞	∞	infinity	infinity	infinity
angle	∠	∠	∠	angle	angle	angle

logical and = wedge	\wedge	∧	∧	logical and	and	logical and
logical or = vee	\vee	∨	∨	logical or	or	logical or
intersection = cap	\cap	∩	∩	intersection	intersection	intersection
union = cup	\cup	∪	∪	union	union	union
integral	\int	∫	∫	integral	integral	integral
therefore	\therefore	∴	∴	therefore	therefore	therefore
tilde operator = varies with = similar to	\sim	∼	∼	tilda operator	similar to	tilda operator
approximately equal to	\approx	≅	≅	approximately equal to	approximately equal to	approximately equal to
almost equal to = asymptotic to	\approx	≈	≈	almost equal to	almost equal to	almost equal to
not equal to	\neq	≠	≠	not equal to	not equal to	not equal to
identical to	\equiv	≡	≡	identical to	identical to	identical to
less-than or equal to	\leq	≤	≤	less than or equal to	less than or equal to	less-than or equal to
greater-than or equal to	\geq	≥	≥	greater than or equal to	greater than or equal to	greater-than or equal to
subset of	\subset	⊂	⊂	subset of	subset of	subset of
superset of	\supset	⊃	⊃	superset of	superset of	superset of
not a subset of	$\not\subset$	⊄	⊄	not a subset of	not a subset of	unpronounceable
subset of or equal to	\subseteq	⊆	⊆	subset of or equal to	subset of or equal to	unpronounceable
superset of or equal to	\supseteq	⊇	⊇	superset of or equal to	superset of or equal to	unpronounceable

circled plus = direct sum	\oplus	⊕	⊕	circled plus	circled plus	circled plus
circled times = vector product	\otimes	⊗	⊗	circled times	circled times	circled times
up tack = orthogonal to = perpendicular	\perp	⊥	⊥	up tack	perpendicular to	unpronounceable
dot operator	.	⋅	⋅	dot operator	times	dot

Geometric Shapes

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
lozenge	\diamond	◊	◊	lozenge	lozenge	lozenge

CO Controls and Basic Latin

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
quotation mark = APL quote	"	"	"	quote	quote	quotation mark
ampersand	&	&	&	and	and	ampersand
less-than sign	<	<	<	less	less	less-than
greater-than sign	>	>	>	greater	greater	greater-than

Spacing Modifier Letters

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
modifier letter circumflex accent	^	ˆ	ˆ	modifier letter circumflex accent	letter 2c6	modifier letter circumflex accent
small tilde	~	˜	˜	tilda	symbol 2bc	small tilda

Latin Extended-A

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
latin capital ligature OE	Œ	Œ	Œ	O E	ligature OE	cap ligature OE
latin small ligature oe	œ	œ	œ	o e	ligature oe	latin small ligature OE
latin capital letter S with caron	Š	Š	Š	S	S hatchet	cap S caron
latin small letter s with caron	š	š	š	s	S hatchet	S caron
latin capital letter Y with diaeresis	Ÿ	Ÿ	Ÿ	NOT SPOKEN	Y umlaut	cap Y diaeresis

Latin Extended-B

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
latin small f with hook = function = florin	f	ƒ	ƒ	florin	Letter 192	f hook

Miscellaneous Punctuation

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
en space		 	 	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN
em space		 	 	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN
thin space		 	 	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN
zero width non-joiner		‌	‌	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN
zero width joiner		‍	‍	NOT SPOKEN	symbol 200d	NOT SPOKEN
left-to-right mark		‎	‎	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN
right-to-left mark		‏	‏	NOT SPOKEN	right to left mark	NOT SPOKEN
en dash	–	–	–	en dash	n dash	en dash
em dash	—	—	—	em dash	m dahs	em dash
left single quotation mark	'	‘	‘	apostrophe	NOT SPOKEN	left single quotation mark
right single quotation mark	,	’	’	apostrophe	right tick	right single quotation mark
single low-9 quotation mark	,	‚	‚	low single quote	NOT SPOKEN	single low-9 quotation mark
left double quotation mark	“	“	“	left quote	left quote	opening double quotation mark
right double quotation mark	”	”	”	right quote	right quote	closing double quotation mark
double low-9 quotation mark	„	„	„	low quote	double low quote	double low quotation mark
dagger	†	†	†	single dagger	dagger	dagger
double dagger	‡	‡	‡	double dagger	double dagger	double dagger

per mille sign	% _o	‰	‰	per mille sign	per mille	per mille
single left-pointing angle quotation mark	<	‘	‹	single left pointing angle quotation mark	symbol 2039	single left-pointing angle quotation mark
single right-pointing angle quotation mark	>	›	›	single right pointing angle quotation mark	symbol 203a	single right-pointing angle quotation mark
euro sign	€	€	€	euro sign	euro	euro sign

Miscellaneous Technical

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
left ceiling = apl upstile	[⌈	⌈	left ceiling	NOT SPOKEN	left ceiling
right ceiling]	⌉	⌉	right ceiling	NOT SPOKEN	right ceiling
left floor = apl downstile	[⌊	⌊	left floor	NOT SPOKEN	left floor
right floor]	⌋	⌋	right floor	NOT SPOKEN	right floor
left-pointing angle bracket = bra	(⟨	〈	left pointing angle bracket	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN
right-pointing angle bracket = ket)	⟩	〉	right-pointing angle bracket	NOT SPOKEN	NOT SPOKEN

Miscellaneous Symbols

Description	The Character	Character Entity Reference	Numeric Character Reference	JAWS Output Eloquence	NVDA eSpeakNG	iOS VoiceOver (English U.S.)
black spade suit	♠	♠	♠	black spade suit	spade suit	black spade card suit
black club suit = shamrock	♣	♣	♣	black club suit	blank club	black club card suit
black heart suit = valentine	♥	♥	♥	black heart suit	heart suit	red heart card suit
black diamond suit	♦	♦	♦	black diamond suit	blank diamond	red diamond card suit