



Creating language and cultural bridges one training at a time

Braille: A Powerful Communication System

In 1824, Louis Braille created the system known as *braille*, a universal method of writing and printing for the blind. This system allows blind individuals to read and write through touch, using raised dots to represent the letters of the alphabet. It also includes equivalents for punctuation marks and symbols to indicate letter groupings.



Braille is read by moving one or both hands from left to right along each line, with the index fingers typically performing the reading. Through the braille alphabet, blind individuals can review and study written text and access a variety of reading materials.

The word *braille* remains the same across many languages, as it is a proper noun derived from Louis Braille's name. However, make sure to check whether it is expected to be capitalized or not in your language. For instance, some organizations expressed a desire for the word braille to be capitalized in all situations, regardless of whether it is being used as a proper noun or not.

Yet, according to the *Diccionario de la lengua española*, when the name used to designate objects, devices, systems, procedures, or products comes from the proper name of their inventor, discoverer, manufacturer, or the person who popularized them or in whose honor they were made, the proper name becomes a common noun and should be written in lowercase. Other examples of these words are *boycott*, *carburetor*, *diesel*, and *mauser*.

You can find this clarification for Spanish spelling in [NAETISL's Glossary of Frequently Used Words in English and Spanish](#).

Have an educational glossary to share? Email us at sesoincga@gmail.com

