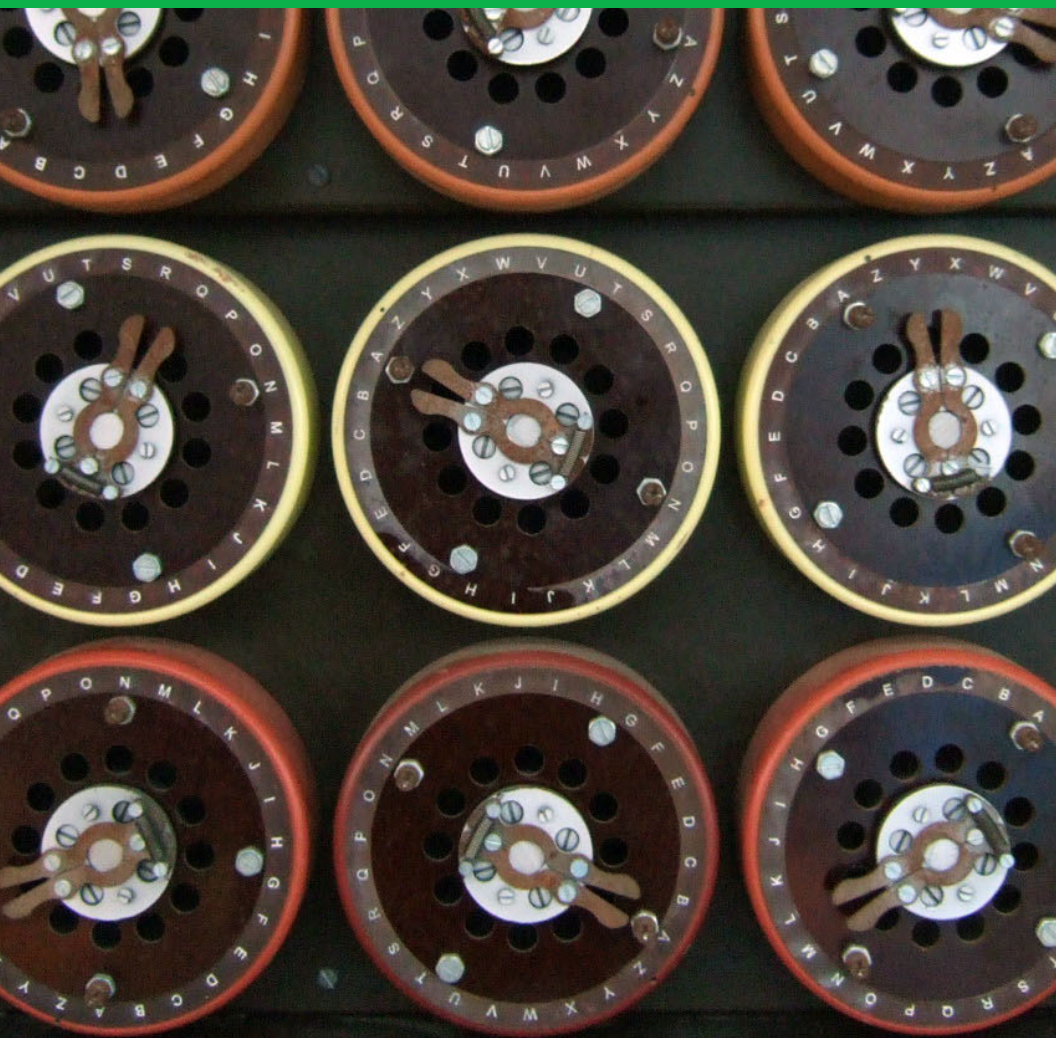
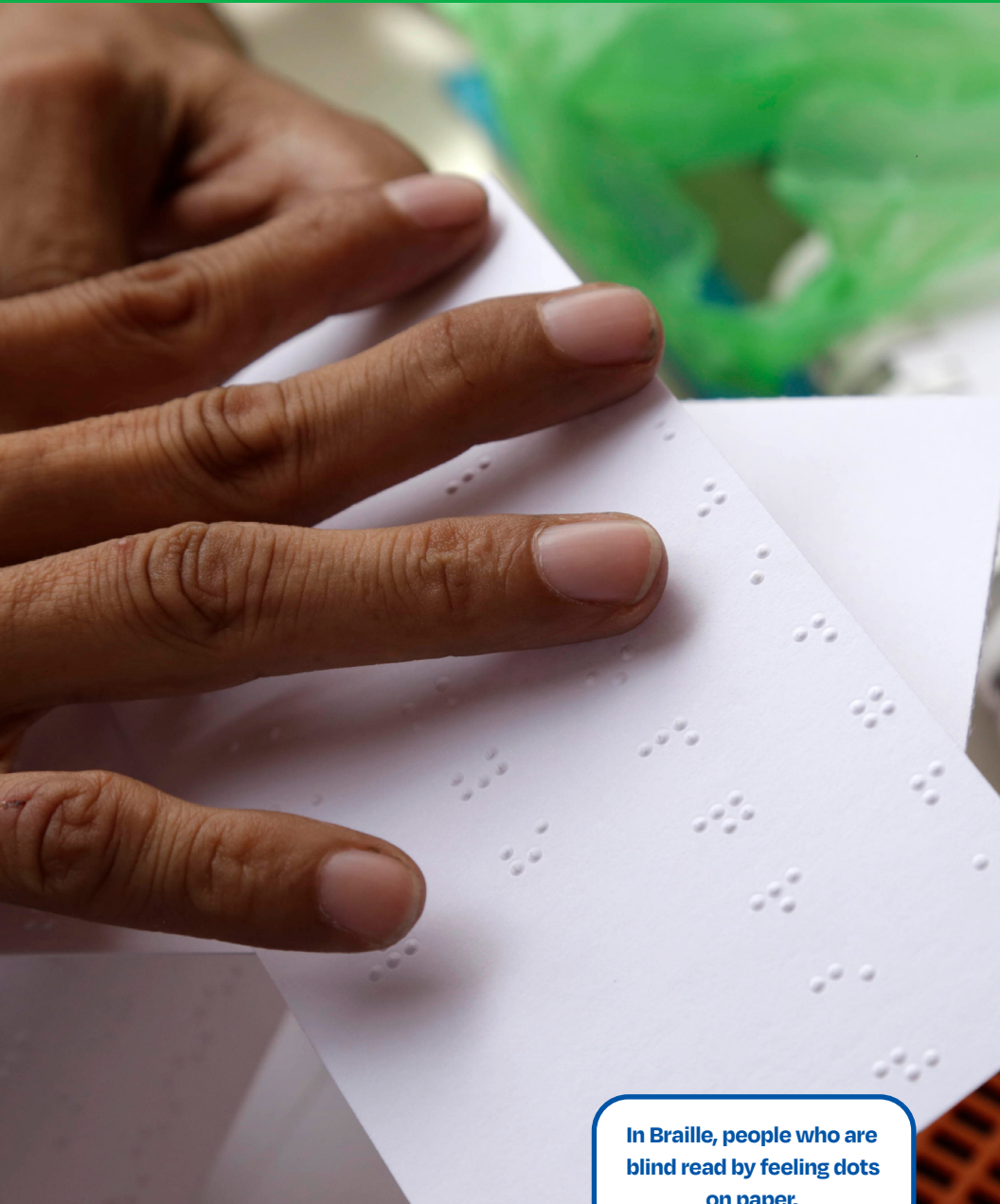


# Many Ways to Communicate





## The Braille System

People can communicate in many different ways, sometimes without speaking. Today, people who can't see can communicate by using a system called Braille. This system for reading and writing was developed by Louis Braille, a 15-year old boy who was blind.

Braille, who was born in 1809, knew about an army code for communicating at night. Each letter in the code used a pattern of raised dots. People read the dots with their fingertips.

The army's system had as many as 12 dots for each letter. Braille made the code simpler, creating a six-dot system. Although Louis Braille's system was easy to use, it took many years for people to understand its value. Today, blind people around the world read and write using the Braille system.

### Key Notes:

What is the Braille system?

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**In Braille, people who are blind read by feeling dots on paper.**





During WWII, Germany used this machine to create a code that was very hard for its enemies to break.

## Germany's Secret Code

During World War II, Germany's armed forces used secret codes to communicate without words. These codes were made and sent on special machines. Information about where to find English and U.S. ships was put into code so that Germany ships could attack them. The secret code was based on only 26 letters, but it was very hard to break.

For years, code breakers tried to figure out Germany's secret code. At one time, 1,000 people were trying to crack the code. Finally, an English person figured out how the code worked. Then, English and U.S. forces could read the code and learn about Germany's plans. They could also keep their ships out of danger. Breaking Germany's secret code helped England and the United States win the war.

### Key Notes:

Why was Germany's secret code a problem for the English and U.S. forces?

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## American Sign Language

American Sign Language, or ASL, is a language in which people use gestures, or movements, instead of words. Today, many of the deaf people in North America use ASL to communicate with other people.

ASL has its own words, word order, and rules. Although people gesture with their hands, they also use their eyes, lips, and mouths to communicate with one another. For example, if people gesture with their hands about being angry, they also have an angry look on their face.

Today's ASL grew out of American Indian sign languages as well as the work of some French teachers of deaf students. As with other languages, American Sign Language continues to grow. New words are added in ASL just as they are in any other language to describe new ideas.

### Key Notes:

What is American Sign Language?

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People who are deaf can choose to communicate by using American Sign Language.





Morse code machines helped people communicate over long distances by sending a code over an electric wire.

## Morse Code

Samuel Morse was an American artist who also invented a special machine. This machine, which he invented in the 1830s, sent information over an electric wire. But wires could only carry short beats of sound, information was transmitted in code. In Samuel Morse's code, short dots and long dashes represented letters and numbers. For example, the letter A is represented by a dot, then a dash. Morse code, as it became known, let people communicate without speaking.

Morse code was used to transmit information across the United States. In 1866, an electric wire was placed under the ocean that linked Europe and North America. By 1900, most of the world had Morse lines. Today, some ships and radio workers still use the dots and dashes of Morse code to communicate without words.

### Key Notes:

What is Morse code?

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