Tips for using French on the BrailleNote

The first thing is to set up the BN for the use of the French feature. This only needs to be done once. Then the process and commands are different depending on whether the user is writing in a braille document or reading/writing a text document.

Recommendation: It is easiest if the student is allowed to write in a braille document using French grade 1 braille. Braille text will be translated to print with French symbols if the file is sent to a printer or emailed as a Word attachment, or written in the body of an email. If they are expected to edit a text file, then they will need to use grade 0 French which is different to grade 1 and they will need to learn two grades. In terms of the student reading text documents, it is easiest if they can just read these with their BN set to display them in grade 1 French braille. This may happen automatically if the text has been marked as French in the original word processor where it was created. Otherwise it will need to be marked as French when opened in KeyWord.

Setting up:

1. Turning French on:
From Main Menu, type u for Utilities then l for Language Options;
Press Space twice to move down to "Enable French" and type y for Yes if it is not set to yes;
Exit with Space and e;
To the prompt "Preferred French Braille code?", press Space with dots 3,4 repeatedly until BN says/displays "French (Unified) and hit Enter;
If there is a question about the grade of French then grade 1 should be chosen.

2. Setting how French text will be displayed on the braille display:
Go to Options with Space and o;
Type b for Braille options;
Space down to "Preferred reading grade for French?" and type a for 1 then press Enter;
Space down to "Preferred French braille code?" and cycle to French Unified with Space and dots 3,4 then press enter;
Exit with Space and e.

3. Setting the French braille keyboard entry:
Go to Options with Space and o;
Type k for Keyboard options;
Space down to "Preferred keyboard braille grade for French?" and type a for 1 then hit Enter;
Exit with Space and e.

Writing French in a braille document:

When you write in a KeyWord braille document, English input is assumed until you tell the BN that you are about to write in French braille. You indicate a change of language by typing Enter with l. Type f for French and hit enter. When you need to write English, press Enter with l then e for English then Enter.

French Symbols (SVRC transcribers may be able to provide more):
a grave dots 1,2,3,5,6 (OF sign);
a circumflex dots 1,6 (CH sign);
e acute dots 1,2,3,4,5,6 (FOR sign);

e grave dots 2,3,4,6 (THE sign);
e circumflex dots 1,2,6 (GH sign);
i circumflex dots 1,4,6 (SH sign);
o circumflex dots 1,4,5,6 (TH sign);
u grave dots 2,3,4,5,6 (WITH sign);
u circumflex dots 1,5,6 (WH sign);
c cedilla dots 1,2,3,4,6 (AND sign);
Hint: the circumflexes: a e l o u correspond to the braille signs for "CH GH SH TH WH" which is like "a b c d e" with a dot 6.
number sign dot 6 which is then followed by the dot six number (1 = a plus dot 6, 2 = b plus dot 6, 3 = c plus dot 6, etc., 0 = dots 3,4,5,6);
Capital sign dots 4,6;
Comma dot 2;
Apostrophe dot 3;
Period dots 2,5,6;
Exclamation mark dots 2,3,6;
Question mark dots 2,6.

Reading a French text document
If a plain text (TXT) or MS Word file is to be read on the BN, then when the text is opened in KeyWord or KeyBook, as it is not a KeyWord document, then you will receive the prompt: "Review the options?". Say n for No to this and then move to the top of the document.

If the text is marked already as French, it is likely to display in French. If not, then the student can change this by marking the top and bottom of the French text and marking it as French. To do this:
Place the cursor on the beginning of the French text, bring up the block commands menu with Space and b and type t for Top of block;
Place the cursor on the character after the last character in the French text, bring up the block commands menu with Space and b and type b for Bottom of block; you will be left in the block commands menu;
Type l for Language and type f for French.

The text document will display change of language codes throughout but they will not be printed.

For optimum use of the BN multilingual features, this document should be read in conjunction with the official Multilingual User guide which can be downloaded from the HumanWare web site.

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