

Unicode request for compound stress mark

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This request is for a compound IPA stress mark, <|>. It consists of U+02C8 MODIFIER LETTER VERTICAL LINE, used in IPA to indicate primary stress, superimposed on U+02CC MODIFIER LETTER LOW VERTICAL LINE, which indicates secondary stress, so that they align one over the other. The compound stress mark is used in dictionary pronunciation guides to indicate that a syllable may be variably pronounced with either primary or secondary stress.

Although found in print, the symbol needs to be substituted in digital materials. Merriam-Webster substitutes it with the ASCII character | (U+00A6 BROKEN BAR), for example in Bal·e·ar·ic \|balē|arik\ (Figure 4). Routledge substitutes it instead with a sequence of the two IPA characters, <'>, which looks bad in some browser fonts (Figure 8).

When I contacted Bill Kretzschmar, editor of the Routledge (and previously Oxford) dictionary, he replied, *The primary/secondary marks are indeed lined up in the printed version of the dictionary. [...] I think it would be great to have a Unicode symbol for the primary/secondary mark.* Clive Upton, his co-editor at Leeds, agreed: *It would clearly be a good thing to have the symbol in Unicode.*

Character

| 208F MODIFIER LETTER HIGH AND LOW VERTICAL LINE

Properties

208F;MODIFIER LETTER HIGH AND LOW VERTICAL LINE;Sk;0;ON;;;;N;;;;;

Annotations

We request annotations analogous to those for U+02C8 and U+02CC:

208F MODIFIER LETTER HIGH AND LOW VERTICAL LINE

- variably primary or secondary stress
- precedes letter or syllable modified

References

The Oxford Dictionary of Pronunciation for Current English. Clive Upton, William Kretzschmar Jr. & Rafal Konopka, eds. 2001.

The Routledge Dictionary of Pronunciation of Current English. Clive Upton & William Kretzschmar Jr., eds. 2nd edition, 2017.

Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged. Philip Gove, ed. 1961.

Chart

Superscripts and Subscripts

2070

209F

	207	208	209
0	0	0	a
1	i	1	e
2		2	o
3		3	x
4	4	4	ə
5	5	5	h
6	6	6	k
7	7	7	l
8	8	8	m
9	9	9	n
A	+	+	p
B	-	-	s
C	=	=	t
D	((w
E))	y
F	n	! !	z

Figures

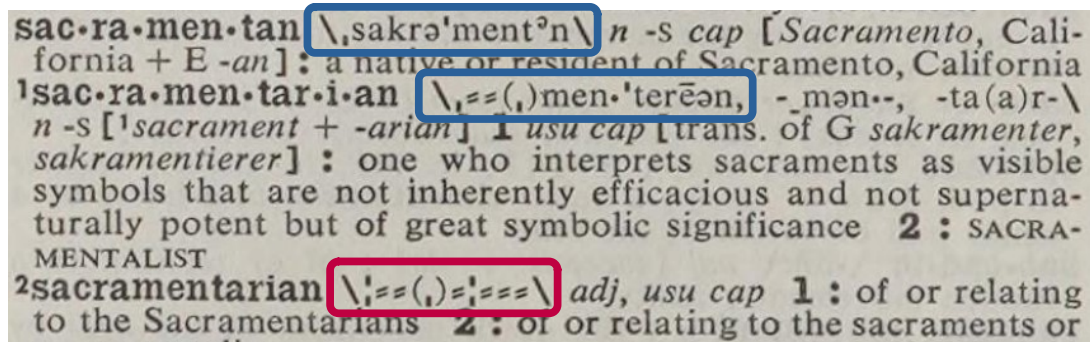


Figure 1. Merriam-Webster print. The compound stress mark <'> in the stress pattern \,səkrə'mentən\ (red) matches the form and placement of both the primary and secondary IPA stress marks (blue).

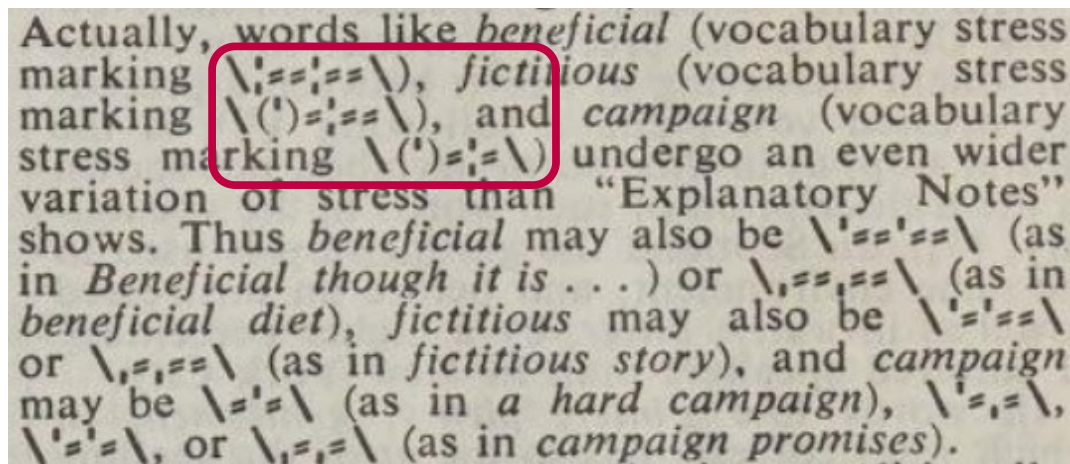


Figure 2. Merriam-Webster print, p. 45a. Explanation of the compound stress mark <'> as variation between <'> and <'>.

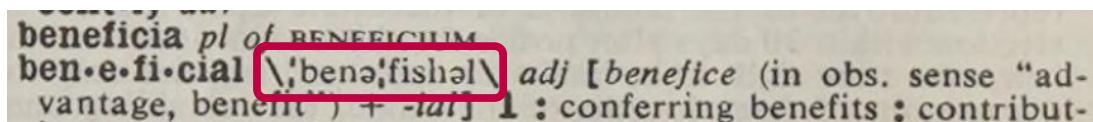


Figure 3. Merriam-Webster print. An example with <'> applied directly to a word.



Figure 4. Merriam-Webster online. The encoding is <Ba·le·ar·ic |balē'arik, ēk, also -|er- sometimes bə'lir->, with proper IPA U+02C8 for primary stress but ASCII U+00A6 substituted for the compound stress mark.

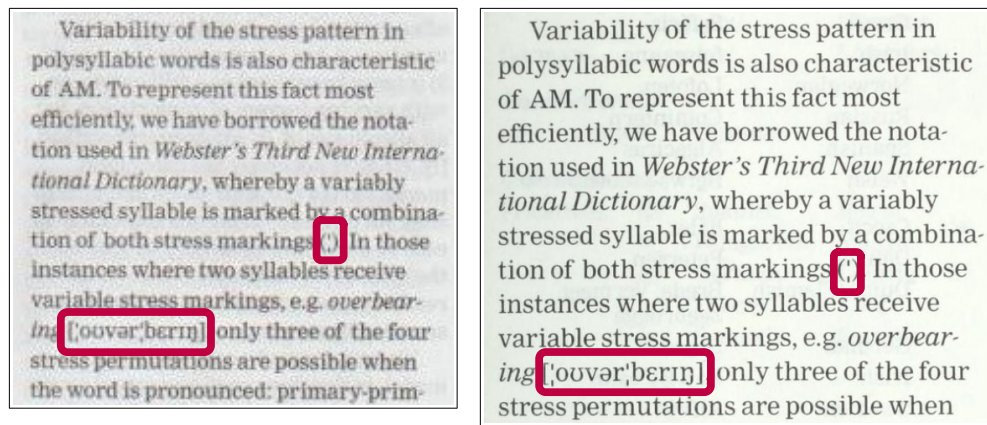


Figure 5. Routledge and Oxford in print. Description of the compound stress mark <'> (red), specifying that it's a combination of <'> and <,>, and noting that this is the symbol found in Webster's Third: *we have borrowed the notation used in Webster's Third New International Dictionary, whereby a variably stressed syllable is marked by a combination of both stress markings (<'>).*

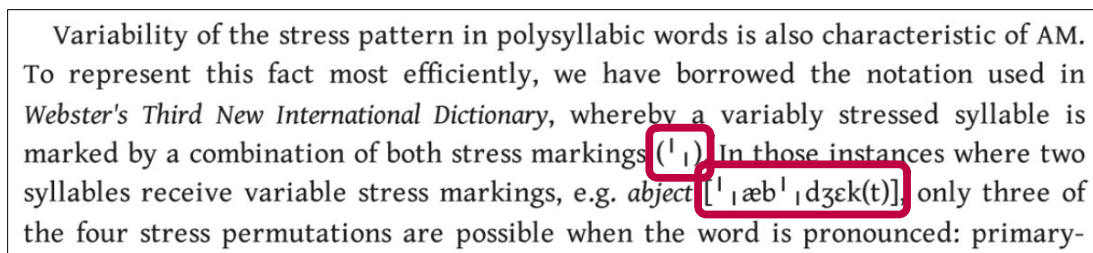


Figure 6. The same passage in the Routledge ebook version. The non-Unicode compound symbol <'> is substituted with the Unicode sequence <'> (red), which is awkward in this font.

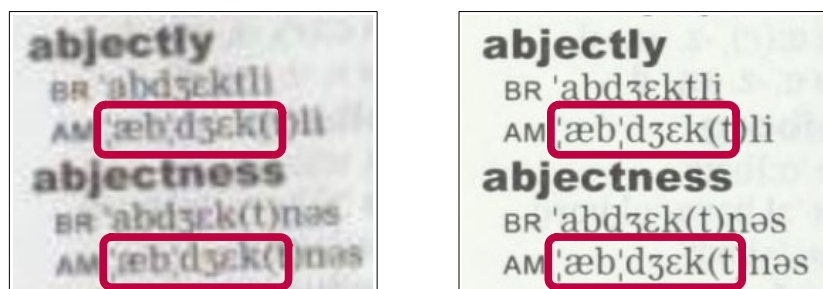


Figure 7. Routledge and Oxford in print. Examples of compound <'> in entries, both rendered <'æb'dʒɛk(t)...>.

abjectly	
BR	^l abdʒɛk(t)li
AM	^l æb ^l dʒɛk(t)li
abjectness	
BR	^l abdʒɛk(t)nəs
AM	^l æb ^l dʒɛk(t)nəs

Figure 8. The more awkward rendition of the same entries in the Routledge ebook.

ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646¹

Please fill all the sections A, B and C below.

Please read Principles and Procedures Document (P & P) from std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/principles.html for guidelines and details before filling this form.

Please ensure you are using the latest Form from std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/summaryform.html.

See also std.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC2/WG2/docs/roadmaps.html for latest Roadmaps.

A. Administrative

1. Title:	<i>Letters with palatal hook</i>		
2. Requester's name:	<i>Kirk Miller</i>		
3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution):	<i>individual</i>		
4. Submission date:	<i>2025 February 14</i>		
5. Requester's reference (if applicable):			
6. Choose one of the following:			
This is a complete proposal:	<i>yes</i>		
(or) More information will be provided later:			

B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:			
a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters):			
Proposed name of script:			
b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block:	<i>yes</i>		
Name of the existing block:	<i>Latin Extended-G</i>		
2. Number of characters in proposal:	<i>1</i>		
3. Proposed category (select one from below - see section 2.2 of P&P document):			
A-Contemporary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	B.1-Specialized (small collection) <input type="checkbox"/>	B.2-Specialized (large collection) <input type="checkbox"/>	
C-Major extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	D-Attested extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	E-Minor extinct <input type="checkbox"/>	
F-Archaic Hieroglyphic or Ideographic <input type="checkbox"/>	G-Obscure or questionable usage symbols		<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided?	<i>yes</i>		
a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document?	<i>yes</i>		
b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?	<i>yes</i>		
5. Fonts related:			
a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard?	<i>Kirk Miller</i>		
b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.):	<i>SIL (Gentium Release)</i>		
6. References:			
a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?	<i>yes</i>		
b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?	<i>yes</i>		
7. Special encoding issues:			
Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?	<i>yes</i>		

8. Additional Information:

Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

¹ – Form number: N4502-F (Original 1994-10-14; Revised 1995-01, 1995-04, 1996-04, 1996-08, 1999-03, 2001-05, 2001-09, 2003-11, 2005-01, 2005-09, 2005-10, 2007-03, 2008-05, 2009-11, 2011-03, 2012-01)

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before?	no
If YES explain	
2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?	yes
If YES, with whom?	
Bill Kretzschmar	
If YES, available relevant documents:	
3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?	
Reference:	
4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)	dictionaries
Reference:	
5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?	yes
If YES, where? Reference:	
see illustrations	
6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?	no
If YES, is a rationale provided?	
If YES, reference:	
7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?	yes
8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?	no
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?	no
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character?	no
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?	
If YES, reference:	
11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences?	no
If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?	
If YES, reference:	
Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?	no
If YES, reference:	
12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?	no
If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)	
13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters?	no
If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified?	
If YES, reference:	