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BSI Standards Publication

## Graphic technology — Symbols for text proof correction

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## National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 5776:2022. It supersedes BS ISO 5776:2016, which is withdrawn.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee PAI/43, Graphic technology.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its committee manager.

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# Graphic technology — Symbols for text proof correction

*Technologie graphique — Symboles pour correction de textes*



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## Contents

Page

<b>Foreword</b> .....	<b>iv</b>
<b>Introduction</b> .....	<b>v</b>
<b>1 Scope</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Normative references</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>3 Terms and definitions</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>4 Symbols for proof correction</b> .....	<b>2</b>
4.1 Alphabetic languages.....	2
4.2 Logographic languages.....	3
4.3 Alphabetic and syllabary language (Korean).....	3
<b>Annex A (informative) Alphabetic examples</b> .....	<b>29</b>
<b>Annex B (informative) Logographic examples (Chinese)</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>Annex C (informative) Logographic examples (Japanese)</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>Annex D (informative) Alphabetic and syllabary examples (Korean)</b> .....	<b>41</b>
<b>Annex E (informative) Relationship between the symbols in this document and the symbols included in ISO 5776:1983</b> .....	<b>44</b>

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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see [www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html](http://www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html).

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 130, *Graphic technology*,

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO 5776:2016), which have been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- addition of correction symbols in the Korean language;
- addition of a new [Annex D](#) (examples in the Korean language);
- renumbering of [Annex D](#) as [Annex E](#).

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at [www.iso.org/members.html](http://www.iso.org/members.html).

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## Introduction

These text proof-correction symbols have been designed to be used with texts in any orthography; they are not language-specific. [Annexes B, C](#) and [D](#) show how the symbols are used in logographic languages and in a language that is partly alphabetical and syllabary. Some of the symbols have been used in the form shown here in a number of countries for many years, and some are recent additions. The newer symbols have been suggested by professional proofreaders, who might have been using them for many years. It is in the industry's interests to standardize the symbols. Symbols take up less space in margins than the words or abbreviations needed to give the same instruction. Standard symbols enable editors, typesetters and proofreaders to communicate clearly even when they do not work in the same language.

The symbol for a capital letter has been used internationally for a long time, but the symbol to change a capital to lower case is more recent. Proofreaders used to need two symbols to indicate bold italics and two to remove bold italics, but now there is one symbol for each. The symbol for a solidus – used in expressions such as "and/or" and in dates – has been devised to differentiate it from the symbol used after a change to existing characters, spacing or styles.

The new standard also includes symbols to raise figures from the baseline to the superior position: cm<sup>2</sup>; to move characters down to the baseline from the superior position: 1<sup>st</sup>; and to move characters down from the baseline to the inferior position: CO<sub>2</sub>.

In a completely electronic workflow, proofreaders can use an electronic version of the symbols to correct proofs delivered as PDFs.

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# Graphic technology — Symbols for text proof correction

## 1 Scope

This document specifies symbols for use in copy preparation and proof correction in alphabetic languages and in logographic languages. It is applicable to texts submitted for correction whatever their nature or presentation (manuscripts, typescripts, printer's proofs, etc.) and for marking up copy for all methods of composition.

Symbols for the correction of mathematical texts and colour illustrations are not included.

## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

## 3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ISO Online Browsing Platform: available at <https://www.iso.org/obp>
- IEC Electropedia: available at <https://www.electropedia.org/>

### 3.1

#### **alphabetic language**

language, the written form of which is based on letters or symbols used to represent speech sounds

Note 1 to entry: Like most European languages, Arabic or Hebrew.

### 3.2

#### **alphabetic and syllabary language**

language, the written form of which is based on symbols and characters representing speech sounds, words and/or phrases

EXAMPLE Korean is an alphabetic and syllabary language.

### 3.3

#### **bold type**

*typeface* (3.12) that is heavier than the normal weight

### 3.4

#### **em space**

width of a capital letter M in a given size and *typeface* (3.12)

### 3.5

#### **en space**

width measuring exactly half the width of a capital letter M in a given size and *typeface* (3.12)

### 3.6

#### **font**

complete collection of characters in one *typeface* (3.12) and size

Note 1 to entry: In the UK, this is traditionally spelled 'fount'.