

- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Huh? Who? What's going on? Fire alarm! That's a fire alarm. Attention students: Run for your lives!!!
- MS. SCHLAU:** Professor Einstein! Professor Einstein....it's just a fire...
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Yes, I know. Fire. There's a fire, there's a fire! Fire! Emergency plan! We need the emergency plan. Right away! Here it is! We are saved. What's this? The emergency plan isn't even in English. It's in Cyrillic, Chinese and Arabic. I can't read these characters. How am I supposed to know what to do in case of a fire? Oh, we're doomed. We're doomed! Ms. Schlau? Aren't you afraid of the fire?
- MS. SCHLAU:** No. Especially not when we are talking about the annual fire drill.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Drill? This is just a drill?
- MS. SCHLAU:** You got it.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Oh, thank the heavens. I'm so relieved. For a brief moment I thought... Well, it's good that I was able to keep my calm. But these unusual writing systems: Look how beautiful they are.
- MS. SCHLAU:** Fascinating! Indeed!
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Aha! I just had an inspiration. Let's have a spontaneous lecture about writing systems and characters. One moment, dear students - let's call Christoph Biemann. He probably has a movie about this topic. JOWO? Where is JOWO? Ah, here he comes! Hi, Christoph. Have you by chance made a movie about foreign writing systems or characters?
- CHRISTOPH:** Hmm, no, not yet. I'm sorry.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** What a pity.
- CHRISTOPH:** Although - we did actually research a writing system once. And in fact it was a very special one...
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Yes? Chinese? Arabic? Cyrillic?
- CHRISTOPH:** It was a writing system that you could even touch.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** A writing system you can touch? I'm really curious!
- MS. SCHLAU:** And you need to remember to collect the new words and key points. Then you'll advance in our university in no time.
- PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:** Let's go, let's go... we're starting! Aha, field researcher Ralph just got a **letter (BRIEF)**. But - what's this? Those aren't **characters (BUCHSTABEN)**, they're just dots on the paper. A secret code, maybe, that no one can **read (LESEN)**? Ah... it's a letter from Class 3A in Düren. OK, let's go, Ralph. Solve the puzzle! Here are the children from Class 3A. It looks like they're taking typing lessons. Of course, Ralph couldn't figure this out. But what about this child?

Could he possibly be able to read the secret code? He's definitely reading something to Ralph. Ah, now I understand - this is Braille and the children in this class are all **blind (BLIND)**. They all attend a school for the blind.

But can Ralph feel the characters with his **finger (FINGER)**? No, he can't. He can feel something, but he can't distinguish the difference. So just how do these little dots work? This one here has one, two, three, four, five, six dots. Ah, Ralph recreated it with an egg carton so it's easier to see. Look, Ms. Schlau, look. You can use eggs in an egg carton to **write (SCHREIBEN)** the whole alphabet:

MS. SCHLAU:	A,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	B,
MS. SCHLAU:	C,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	D,
MS. SCHLAU:	E,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	F,
MS. SCHLAU:	G,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	H,
MS. SCHLAU:	I,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	J,
MS. SCHLAU:	K,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	L,
MS. SCHLAU:	M,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	N,
MS. SCHLAU:	O,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	P,
MS. SCHLAU:	Q,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	R,
MS. SCHLAU:	S,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	T,
MS. SCHLAU:	U,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	V,
MS. SCHLAU:	W,
PROFESSOR EINSTEIN:	X,

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Y,

MS. SCHLAU: Z.

So that really works: There are 6 egg combinations that represent all 26 characters of the alphabet. The **dots (PUNKTE)** are barely raised on the paper. You can just feel them with the tip of your finger.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Amazing!

MS. SCHLAU: Just look – with these characters you can write entire books. In between there are sheets of plastic. They're probably pictures that you can feel.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: That's a lot of pages. It takes so many books to represent just a little textbook. My goodness. And what's Ralph up to now? He's taking a sheet of paper.

MS. SCHLAU: He gives it to a **girl (MÄDCHEN)**. She threads it into a **typewriter (SCHREIBMASCHINE)**. And when she types, each character is punched into the paper.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Ah! You have to press a **key (TASTE)**. And now Ralph is showing us how the typewriter works. It has fewer keys than the one in our office, doesn't it, Ms. Schlau?

MS. SCHLAU: The top of the typewriter is made up of two parts. The first part has 6 little holes and the other part has six little ball points. When you push one or more keys, different balls get pushed into the paper and make impressions that can later be felt. Very interesting.

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: But Ms. Schlau, with so few keys how could you type all the letters?

MS. SCHLAU: Professor, we already discussed that. It's the principle we saw with the eggs. Don't you remember?

PROFESSOR EINSTEIN: Of course I remember.

MS. SCHLAU: And here we can see the girl pressing different keys. She's able to write all the letters in Braille so others can feel and read them. Professor? Professor! Are you sleeping again? The life of a researcher appears to be quite exhausting. Until he decides to wake up again, you can solve scientific exercises and practice some words, OK? But shhh. Be quiet. Otherwise you'll wake up the professor.