

# List of transcription symbols

Adapted from Jefferson (2004a).

Symbol	Meaning	Notes
[	overlapping speech	Brackets indicate where two (or more) speakers' talk overlaps.
=	no break or gap	An equal sign indicates that the speech continues to the next line without a break. This can also indicate when one speaker stops abruptly and a second speaker interrupts and begins speaking immediately. Equal signs appear at the end of the first line and beginning of the second.
(0.0)	timed pause	Numbers in parenthesis indicate a pause timed in seconds and rounded to the nearest tenth of a second.
(.)	micro-pause	A period in parenthesis indicates a brief pause, usually less than one-tenth of a second.
-	abrupt stop	A dash indicates an abrupt stop, often occurring in the middle of a word.
:	prolongation	Colons indicate prolongation of the prior sound. Each colon corresponds roughly to one additional mora length, thus longer colon rows indicate longer prolongation.
<u>text</u>	stress	Underlining indicates a stress which may occur via pitch or amplitude. Note that stress may occur within a word (e.g., <u>sugoku</u> ) or across several words (e.g., <u>chigau deshoo</u> ).
.	falling intonation	A period indicates the falling intonation typical at the end of a sentence.
?	rising intonation	A question mark indicates rising intonation typical of interrogative sentences.
↑	high pitch	An up arrow indicates a shift into a relatively high pitch
↓	low pitch	A down arrow indicates a shift into a relatively low pitch
TEXT	loud sounds	Capital letters indicate sounds that are loud relative to the surrounding talk.
°text°	soft sounds	Degree signs surround sounds that are soft relative to the surrounding talk.
>text<	fast talk	Right/left carats surround utterances that are produced at a pace more rapid than the surrounding talk.
<text>	slow talk	Left/right carats surround utterances that are produced at a pace more slow than the surrounding talk.
hhh	outbreath	A series of lower-case 'h' symbol indicates an outbreath. Each 'h' corresponds to roughly one-tenth of a second.
. hhh	inbreath	A series of lower-case 'h' symbols preceded by a period indicates an inbreath. Each 'h' corresponds to roughly one-tenth of a second.
haha	laughter	A sequence of alternating 'h' and 'a' symbols indicates laughter. Longer sequences indicate longer periods of laughter.

(continued)

Symbol	Meaning	Notes
(h)	positiveness	An ‘h’ in parentheses indicates a sudden burst of air, often associated with laughter.
( )	unintelligible speech	Empty parentheses indicate portions of talk that was unintelligible to the transcriber.
\$text\$	smile voice	Dollar signs surround utterances that are produced with prosodic features recognizable associated with smiling or laughter.
(text)	dubious transcriptions	Parenthesis surrounding portions of talk indicate that the transcription represents the transcriber’s best guess at hard-to-hear talk.
((text))	researcher comments	Double parentheses set apart comments and notes. Frequently this is used to indicate non-verbal gestures, actions, and important contextual information.
	onset of embodied action	Important non-verbal actions (e.g., gestures) are given above the transcribed line. A pipe symbol indicates its onset in the transcription.