brother

TZ TAPE
P-touch®
ELECTRONIC LABELING SYSTEM

PT-1290

User's Guide

English
Español

Printed in China
LW3866001Ⓐ

Introduction

With your PT-1290, you can create labels for any application. Select from the many frames, character sizes and styles to design beautiful custom labels. In addition, the variety of tape cartridges available allows you to print labels with different widths and exciting colors.
Read this manual carefully before starting and keep the manual in a handy place for future reference.

FCC NOTICE

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: (1) this device may not cause harmful interference, and (2) this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.

This equipment has been tested and found to comply with the limits for a Class B digital device, pursuant to Part 15 of the FCC Rules. These limits are designed to provide reasonable protection against harmful interference in a residential installation. This equipment generates, uses, and can radiate radio frequency energy and, if not installed and used in accordance with the instructions, may cause harmful interference to radio communications. However, there is no guarantee that interference will not occur in a particular installation. If this equipment does cause harmful interference to radio or television reception, which can be determined by turning the equipment off and on, the user is encouraged to try to correct the interference by one or more of the following measures:

• Reorient or relocate the receiving antenna.
• Increase the separation between the equipment and receiver.
• Connect the equipment into an outlet on a circuit different from that to which the receiver is connected.
• Consult the dealer or an experienced radio/TV technician for help.

Important
• Changes or modifications not expressly approved by Brother Industries, Ltd. could void the user's authority to operate the equipment.

Safety Precautions

⚠ Warning

Follow these guidelines to avoid fire, burn, injury, electric shock, rupture, heat, abnormal odor and smoking.

• Always use the specified voltage and the suggested AC adapter (AD-24ES) for this machine to prevent any damage or failure.
• Unplug the power cord immediately and stop using the P-touch labeler during an electrical storm.
• Do not use the machine/AC adapter in places of high humidity such as bathrooms.
• Do not overload the power cord.
• Do not place heavy objects on, or damage the power cord or plug. Do not forcibly bend or pull the power cord. When disconnecting the power cord from the power outlet, always hold the plug.
• Make sure that the plug is fully inserted to the power outlet. Do not use an outlet that is loose.
• Do not swallow the cutter stopper.
• Do not get the machine/AC adapter/power plug wet, such as by handling them with wet hands or spilling beverages on to them.
• Do not disassemble or modify the P-touch labeler/AC adapter/ batteries.
• Do not use metallic objects, such as tweezers or a metallic pen, when changing the batteries.
• Do not throw the batteries into fire or expose to heat.
• Disconnect the AC adapter and remove batteries immediately and stop using the machine if you notice abnormal odor, heat, discoloration, deformation or anything unusual while using or storing it.

⚠ Caution

Follow these guidelines to avoid personal injury, liquid leakage, burn and heat.

• Do not touch the edge of the cutter or any metal parts near the print head.
• Remove the batteries and disconnect the AC adapter if you do not intend to use P-touch labeler for an extended period of time.

• When power is disconnected for more than three minutes, all text, format settings and any text files stored in the memory will be cleared.
• Do not use old and new batteries together or mix alkaline batteries with other type batteries, or set the positive and negative end in the wrong position.
• Do not drop or hit the P-touch labeler/AC adapter.
• Do not press hard on the LCD display.
• Do not put your finger between the covers when you close the back cover.

General Precautions

• Depending on the location, material, and environmental conditions, the label may unpeel or become irremovable, the color of the label may change or be transferred to other objects. Before applying the label, check the environmental condition and the material.
• Do not use the P-touch labeler in any way or for any purpose not described in this guide. Doing so may result in accidents or damage the machine.
• Use only Brother TZ tapes with this machine. Do not use tapes that do not have the TZ mark.
• Only use a soft, dry cloth to clean the labeler; never use alcohol or other organic solvents.
• Use a soft wipe to clean the print head; never touch the print head.
• Do not put any foreign objects into the tape exit slot or AC adapter connector, etc.
• Do not place the P-touch labeler/battery in direct sunlight or rain, near heaters or other hot appliances, in any location exposed to extremely high or low temperatures (e.g. on the dashboard or in the back of your car), high humidity, or dusty locations.
• Do not apply excessive pressure to the cutter lever.
• Do not try to print if the cassette is empty; it will damage the print head.
• Do not pull the tape while printing or feeding; it will damage the tape and machine.
• Any data stored in memory will be lost due to failure or repair of the P-touch labeler, or if the battery expires.

Power Supply and Tape Cassette

1

Cassette cover — Print head — Tape cutter lever

Open the cassette cover by pressing the above indicated area at the top end of the machine.
If a tape cassette is already installed, remove it by pulling it straight up. Also, if batteries are already installed, remove them.
▪ Make sure that the power is turned off when replacing batteries or tape cassettes.

2

Insert six new AAA alkaline batteries (LR03), making sure that their poles point in the correct directions. Always replace all six batteries at the same time using brand new ones.

3

End of tape — Toothed Wheel — Cutter's edge
Tape guide — Tape exit slot

Insert a tape cassette, making sure that it snaps into place.
• Make sure that the end of the tape feeds under the tape guides.
• If the ink ribbon is loose, use your finger to wind the toothed wheel in the direction of the arrow on the cassette.
• Use only Brother TZ tapes with this machine.

4

AC adapter jack

Securely close the cassette cover, making sure that it snaps into place.
After you have installed the tape, feed the tape (see "Feeding") once and then push in the tape cutter lever to cut the tape.

ⓘ NOTE
When using optional AC adapter (AD-24ES)
1. Insert the plug on the adapter cord into the AC adapter jack on the top end of the machine.
2. Insert the plug into the nearest standard electrical outlet. For memory back up, we recommend using AAA alkaline batteries (LR03) together when using the AC adapter.

LCD Display & Keyboard

1. Size
2. Font
3. Cursor
4. Caps
5. Width
6. Style
7. Underline/Frame
8. Label Length
9. Escape key
10. Power key
11. Function key
12. F1 key
13. F2 key
14. Character key
15. Tab key
16. Caps key
17. Shift key
18. Symbol key
19. Auto Format key
20. Cursor key (Use with Shift key to go to top/ end of the text.)
21. Print key
22. Preview key
23. OK key
24. DECO MODE key
25. Backspace key
26. Enter key
27. Accent key
28. Space key

ⓘ NOTE
The LCD shows one row of 15 characters; however, the text that you enter can be up to 80 characters in length.

Initial Settings

1 Start your machine.
Supply power by using six AAA alkaline batteries or the optional AC adapter, and then press ⓞ.

2 Set the language.
The default setting is [English].
Fn → ◁▷ [🏳 Language] → Enter → ◁▷
[English/Español/Français/Hrvatski/Italiano/ Magyar/Nederlands/Norsk/Polski/ Português/Română/Slovenski/Slovenský/ Suomi/Svenska/Türkçe/Český/Dansk/ Deutsch] Enter.

3 Set the unit of measurement.
The default setting is [inch].
Fn → ◁▷ [Unit] Enter →
→ ◁▷ [inch/mm] Enter

ⓘ NOTE
• The machine automatically turns off if no keys are pressed within five minutes.
• To cancel operations, press Esc.

Troubleshooting

▶ Error message

Message	Cause/Remedy
Battery Weak!	The batteries are weak. Replace them with new ones.
Check Battery!	The installed batteries are running low.
Invalid!	• There is no text above the cursor when you selected [Numbering]. • Invalid character is selected for [Numbering]. • Invalid number is selected for [Tab Length] or [Label Length].
No Text!	• You tried to print a text file when there is no data stored in the memory. • Print is pressed when no text is entered. • You tried to select [Copies], [Numbering], [Mirror], or Text Preview when no text is entered.
Line Limit!	• You tried to enter a 3rd line by pressing ↵. • You tried to print a 2 line text when 9/64" (3.5mm) or 1/4" (6mm) tape is installed.
No Cassette!	You tried to print a label when there is no cassette installed.
Cutter Error!	Tape cutter lever is used in the middle of printing process.

Message	Cause/Remedy
Full!	The maximum number of characters (80 characters, 50 characters for DECO MODE) have already been entered.
Text Too Long!	The text length exceeds the selected label length, Auto Format setting length and DECO MODE setting length.
No Frame OK?	Printing on 9/64" (3.5mm) tape with invalid Frame setting ON. (Select Enter to print with no Frame, Esc to cancel.)
OK to Feed?	Feeding tape after printing when [Chain print] is selected. Refer to "Setting Margin".
Cooling	If the print head becomes too hot, your machine will stop printing and automatically start to cool down. The cool down time will be displayed. Once the print head is cool, printing will automatically continue. Do not touch the P-touch labeler while cooling.
Insert 1/2" (12mm)!	Only 1/2"(12mm) tape cassette is available for DECO MODE.

▶ What to do when...

Problem	Solution
The display stays blank after you have turned on the machine.	• Check that the batteries are correctly inserted. • If the batteries are weak, replace them. • Check that the AD-24ES adapter is correctly connected.
When the label is printed out, there is too much margin (space) on both sides of the label.	• See "Setting Margin" in this users guide and select [Half] or [Narrow] to have smaller margins for your label.
The machine does not print, or the printed characters are not formed properly.	• Check that the tape cassette has been inserted correctly. • If the tape cassette is empty, replace it. • Check the cassette cover is properly closed.
The setting has cleared on its own.	• The batteries may be weak. Replace them. • When power is disconnected for more than three minutes, all text & formats in the display will be lost. Language and Unit settings will also be cleared.
A blank horizontal line appears through the printed label.	• There maybe some dust on the print head. Remove the tape cassette and use a dry cotton swab to gently wipe the print head with an up-and-down motion.

Problem	Solution
The machine has "locked up" (i.e., nothing happens when a key is pressed, even though the machine is on.)	• Refer to "Resetting the P-touch".
The power turns off when you try to print.	• The batteries may be weak. Replace them. • Check that the batteries are correctly inserted.
The tape does not feed properly or the tape gets stuck inside the machine.	• Check that the end of the tape feeds under the tape guides. • The cutter lever is used while printing. Do not touch the cutter lever during printing.
All text and format settings need to be cleared to create a new label.	• Press Shift + ⌫ and select [Text&Format].
To change language setting.	• Refer to "Initial Settings".

Entering Text

▶ Setting Font

Fn [F1] (Helsinki) or [F2] (Bohemia)

Label image (Helsinki) — Helsinki
Label image (Bohemia) — Bohemia

▶ Switching Upper Case/Lower Case

Caps

Upper case (Caps ON) — A B C D E
Lower case (Caps OFF) — a b c d e

▶ Making Two Lines of Text

Move the cursor to where the second line starts and press ↵.
Use either 3/8" (9mm) or 1/2" (12mm) wide tape for two line text.

Display — ABC▼DEF
Label image — ABC DEF

▶ Entering Symbols

Symbol → Choose a symbol with ◁▷ and ▲▼
press Enter.

• Refer to the table of symbols (A) on the enclosed insertion sheet for a list of available symbols.
• To go to the next group, press Symbol.
• To cancel operations, press Esc.

▶ Entering Accented Characters

A - Z → Accent → Accent / ◁▷ → Enter

• Refer to the table of accented characters (B) on the enclosed insertion sheet for a list of available accented characters.
• To cancel operations, press Esc.
• The order of accented characters differs by the selected LCD language.

▶ To Clear

By pressing ⌫, the letters will be deleted one by one.

To delete all text and settings :
Shift + ⌫ → ◁▷ [Text&Format] Enter

To delete text only :
Shift + ⌫ → ◁▷ [Text Only] Enter

Designing Labels

1 Press Fn, use ◁▷ to select a function under column [A], and then press Enter. (The function can also be selected with the shortcut keys listed under column [C]. (Fn + 1 to 8))

2 Use ▲▼ to select a setting listed under column [B], and then press Enter.

Design	[A]	[B]	Label image	[C]
Size	Size	Large*1	J.SMITH	
		Medium	J.SMITH	1
		Small	J.SMITH	
Width	Width	Normal*1	J.SMITH	
		x 2	J.SMITH	2
		x 1/2	J.SMITH	
Style	Style	Normal*1	J.SMITH	
		Bold	J.SMITH	
		Outline	J.SMITH	
		Shadow	J.SMITH	
		Italic	J.SMITH	3
		Italic Bold	J.SMITH	
		Italic Outl (Italic Outline)	J.SMITH	
		Italic Shadow	J.SMITH	
		Vertical	つ・ぉ三ートエ	
Underline/Frame*2	Underline/Frame	Off*1	ABC	
		Underline	ABC	
		Round	ABC	
		Leaf	ABC	
		Tile	ABC	4
		Star	★ ABC ★	
		Heart	♥ ABC ♥	
		Square	ABC	
		Clip	ABC	
Tab	Tab	The cursor should be positioned where you set to tab. You can also set a tab by using the Tab key on the keyboard.		5
Tab length	Tab Length	Auto*1/0.0"-4.0" (0-100mm)*3	The tab is set with the specified length.	6
Label length	Label Length	Auto*1/1.2"-12.0" (30-300mm)*3	The label is printed with the specified length.	7
Auto format	Auto Format	Off*1	—	
		VHS Spine	5.5" (140mm)	
		MiniDV Spine	1.6" (42mm)	
		Audio Tape	3.5" (89mm)	
		CD Case Spine	4.4" (113mm)	8
		File Tab	3.2" (82mm)	
		Divider Tab	1.6" (42mm)	

*1 There are the default settings. To return to the default setting, press Space.
*2 Frames can not be printed on 9/64" (3.5mm) tape.
*3 You can also select the length by entering the length with Number keys. To turn to [Auto], press Space.

Printing Labels

▶ Text Preview

You can preview the text before printing.
Fn Q

• The LCD shows the whole text and the label length (inch/ mm), then returns to the original text.
• Only the text can be previewed, not the font, style, size, underline/frame or any additional features.

▶ Feeding (Tape Feed)

Shift + ⊷

▶ Setting Margin (Fn + ⊡)

Fn → ◁▷ [Margin] Enter →
◁▷ [Full/Half/Narrow/Chain Print]

[Full]/[Half]/[Narrow]
For leaving equal margins on both sides of the text.

Full	Half	Narrow
ABC	ABC	ABC

[Chain Print]
For creating a label containing text in various styles.
1. Enter text.
2. Press ⊷, then [OK to Feed?] appears.
3. Press Esc to enter more texts. Press ⊷ to feed and print.

Chain Print
ABC — ABC DEF
(feed & cut)

ⓘ NOTE
• When [Half] or [Narrow] is set, feed the tape before using the cutter otherwise a part of the text may be cut off. Also, cut along the printed dots (:) with scissors so the text is centered in the label.
• To print more than 1 copy of a label with minimum margin, set the margin [Narrow] and select [Copies] for [Print Options] function.
• Do not try to pull the tape since this may damage the tape cassette.

▶ Printing

Print

• To prevent damage to the tape, do not touch the cutter lever while the message "Print" or "Feed" is displayed.
• To cut off the label, push in the tape cutter lever on the upper-right corner of the machine.
• Peel the printed label from backing and apply the label.

▶ Using Print Options (Fn + Print)

[Copies]
You can print up to 9 copies of each label.
• To print more than 1 copy of a label with minimum margin, set the margin to [Narrow] and select [Copies] for [Print Options] function.
Fn → ◁▷ [Print Options] →
◁▷ [Copies] → Set 1-9? 3

• You can also select the number of copies by entering with Number keys.

[Numbering]
You can print many copies of the same text while increasing a selected number by 1 after each label is printed.
Example: To print copies of a label containing a serial number (0123, 0124 and 0125)
0123 → Fn →
◁▷ [Print Options] →
◁▷ [Numbering] →
Set 3-9? 5 Enter

• Select the highest number you wish to be printed when setting the number.

[Mirror]
Fn → ◁▷ [Print Options] →
◁▷ [Mirror] → Mirror Print?

J.SMITH

• Use clear tape in [Mirror], so the labels can be read correctly from the opposite side when attached on glass, windows or other transparent surfaces.

Resetting the P-touch

You can reset the P-touch labeler when you want to initialize the settings, or in the event the P-touch labeler is not working properly.

1 Turn off the P-touch labeler and then while holding down Shift and R, press ⓞ to turn the P-touch back on.

2 Release Shift and R.
The P-touch labeler turns on with the internal memory reset.

ⓘ NOTE
All text, settings and stored files are cleared.

DECO MODE

This function allows you to create unique labels by using some built-in templates. Refer to the DECO MODE format table (C) on the enclosed insertion sheet.

Example: Design 10 — Bill Anderson ABC Company

DECO MODE → [Design 10]
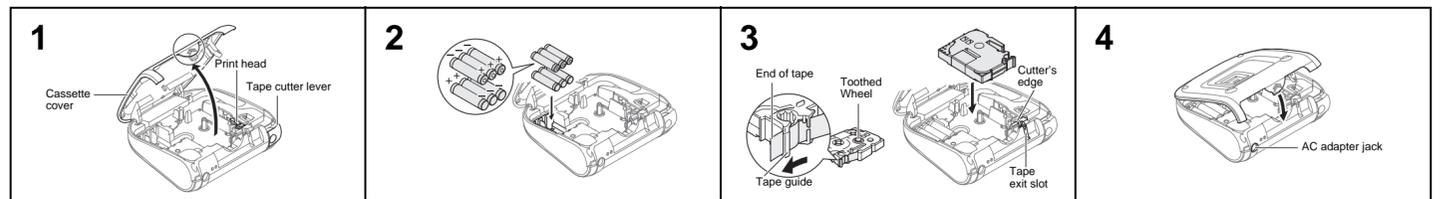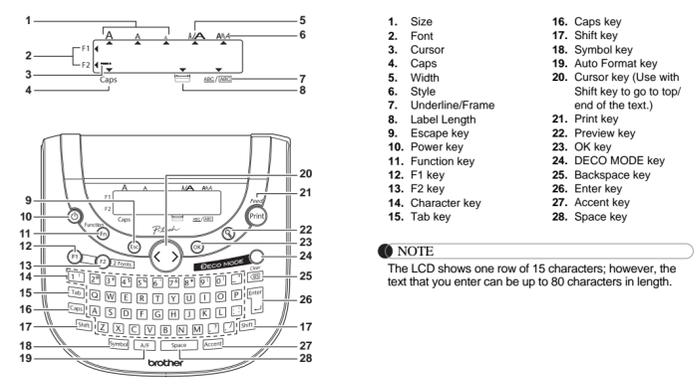Label Length → [Auto/1.2"-7.8"
(30-200mm)] → Text 1
→ Bill Anderson → Text 2
→ ABC Company, Inc. → [Print OK?]

ⓘ NOTE
• Some formats checked on [C] in the DECO format table need cooling. If the print head becomes too hot, your machine will stop printing and automatically start to cool down. The cool down time will be displayed. Once the print head is cool, printing will automatically continue. Do not touch the P-touch labeler while cooling.
• If you select a format that is one line (Design 1 - Design 9), only enter the text one time.
• Depending on the format you have selected, the entire contents of your text may not be printed.
• The DECO MODE templates cannot change format.
• The highlighted symbols in the table of symbols (A) on the enclosed insertion sheet are available in DECO MODE.
• To clear all text, press DECO MODE and ⌫, then "Clear?" appears. Press Enter to clear. Press Esc to cancel.
• When you access DECO MODE, your most recently printed DECO MODE text and label length will be recalled.
• Press Esc to return to the previous step.
• To exit DECO MODE, press DECO MODE until the display shows the text entry screen.
• DECO MODE feature is only available when using 1/2" (12mm) wide tape cassettes.
• The maximum label length is 7.8" (200mm) for DECO MODE.
• When [Auto] is selected for "Label Length", the label will automatically adjust to the correct size for printing the text one time.
• Press Space to return to the [Auto] setting for "Label Length" mode.

Saving Label Files

▶ Memory (Fn + ⊡)

You can save your original labels on to your machine. Up to nine labels can be saved and recalled for printing at a later date. You can also edit and overwrite the stored label.

P-touch_ → Fn → ◁▷ [File] Enter

To Save: → [Save] →
◁▷•◁ →

To Print: → [Print] →
◁▷• P-touch

To Open: → [Open] →
◁▷• P-touch

ⓘ NOTE
If you try to store a label when there is already a label stored to that number, a message "Overwrite?" will appear.
Press Enter to save your new label. Press Esc to cancel.

Specifications

Dimensions: (W x D x H)	6.26" x 6.18" x 2.43" (159 x 157 x 61.7mm)
Weight:	1.07 lb. (485 g) (without batteries and tape cassette)
Power supply:	Six AAA alkaline batteries (LR03) Optional AC adapter (AD-24ES)
Tape cassette:	Brother TZ tape (width) 9/64" (3.5mm), 1/4" (6mm), 3/8" (9mm), 1/2" (12mm)

Accessories

Tape Cassettes:	See the included "Supplies and Accessories Guide".
AC Adapter:	AD-24ES
Cutter Unit:	TC-5 (replacement)

If the cutter blade becomes blunt after repetitive use and the tape cannot be cut cleanly, replace with new cutter unit (stock no. TC-5) by obtaining from an authorized Brother reseller.

⚠ CAUTION
• Do not touch the cutter blade directly with your fingers.
• Do not swallow the cutter stopper.

Should you encounter any problems with your product, please do not return your product to the store!
After referring to the User's guide, if you still need assistance, call Brother Customer Service at:
Voice: 1-877-BROTHER
Web: www.brother-usa.com
Fax: 1-901-379-1210
If you need to locate a service center, please call 1-877-BROTHER or visit us at www.brother-usa.com

01/14	.	,	:	;	"	'	•	08/14	α	β	γ	δ	§	²	³
02/14	@	–	&	˜	_	\	/	09/14	⏚	∼	⎓	⊣⊢	⏻	µ	Ω
03/14	#	%	?	!	¿	¡	*	10/14	⊘	⚠	⚡	☠			
04/14	+	−	×	÷	±	=		11/14	☎	📱	📠	✉			
05/14	(	)	[	]	<	>		12/14	☆	★	○	●	□	■	
06/14	➡	⬅	⬆	⬇				13/14	◇	◆	♤	♠	♡	♥	
07/14	$	¢	€	£	¥	°		14/14	♧	♣	♪				

A	À	Á	Â	Ä	Æ	Ã	Ą	Å	Ā	a	á	à	â	ä	æ	ā	ą	å	ã ā
C	Ç	Č	Ć							c	ç	č	ć						
D	Ď	Đ								d	ď	ð	đ						
E	É	È	Ê	Ë	Ę	Ě	Ė	Ē		e	é	è	ê	ë	ę	ě	ė	ē	
G	Ģ	Ğ								g	ģ	ğ							
I	Í	Ì	Î	Ï	Į	Ī	İ			i	í	ì	î	ï	į	ī	ı		
K	Ķ									k	ķ								
L	Ł	Ĺ	Ļ	Ľ						l	ł	ĺ	ļ	ľ					
N	Ñ	Ń	Ň	Ņ						n	ñ	ň	ń	ņ					
O	Ó	Ò	Ô	Ø	Ö	Õ	Œ	Ő		o	ó	ò	ô	ø	ö	õ	œ	ő	
R	Ř	Ŕ	Ŗ							r	ř	ŕ	ŗ						
S	Š	Ś	Ş	Ș	ß					s	š	ś	ş	ș	ß				
T	Ť	Ţ	Þ							t	ť	ţ	þ						
U	Ú	Ù	Û	Ü	Ų	Ů	Ū	Ű		u	ú	ù	û	ü	ų	ů	ū	ű	
Y	Ý	Ÿ								y	ý	ÿ							
Z	Ž	Ź	Ż							z	ž	ź	ż						

	C	1	[C]
		2	
1	BROTHER BROTHER	BROTHER	
		–	
2	BROTHER BROTHER	BROTHER	
		–	
3	BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROT BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROT	BROTHER	
		–	
4	BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROT ROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTH OTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHE	BROTHER	
		–	
5	BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER	BROTHER	
		–	
6	BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER	BROTHER	✓
		–	
7	BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER	BROTHER	✓
		–	
8	ROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROT	BROTHER	✓
		–	
9	BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROTHER BROT	BROTHER	✓
		–	
10	Bill Anderson ABC Company, Inc.	Bill Anderson	
		ABC Company, Inc.	
11	Bill Anderson ABC Company, Inc.	Bill Anderson	
		ABC Company, Inc.	
12	Bill Anderson ABC Company, Inc.	Bill Anderson	
		ABC Company, Inc.	
13	Bill Anderson ABC Company, Inc.	Bill Anderson	
		ABC Company, Inc.	
14	ABC Company, Inc. Bill Anderson	ABC Company, Inc.	✓
		Bill Anderson	
15	Bill Anderson ABC Company, Inc.	Bill Anderson	
		ABC Company, Inc.	