

THE MORSE CODE

Introduction

1. In 1832, Samuel Morse, an American, devised a code for the sending of messages, allotting different combinations of long and short electrical impulses to the letters of the alphabet.
2. Later, in 1894, Marconi, an Italian, who had been experimenting with the possibility of radio communication, came to England, having received little encouragement from his native country. Scientists of his time were of the opinion that the range of radio communication would be limited to 200 miles—owing to the curvature of the Earth. However, in 1901, after numerous experiments, Marconi confounded his critics and created a world-wide sensation by his success in receiving signals at St John's, Newfoundland, which had been transmitted across the Atlantic Ocean from Poldhu in Cornwall. The way was now open for the development of radio communication.

Importance of the Code

3. The morse code, internationally understood, remains the basis for nearly all modern radio telegraphy. The morse key is still the recognized standby where automatic transmission fails.
4. In the field, too, the code is of inestimable value—visually, using signalling lamps, heliograph or flags; and aurally, using buzzer, whistle or other means. Thousands of lives have been saved by a knowledge of the code. Trapped miners have tapped out their location, helpless vessels have signalled their distress.
5. Certainly all aircrew value the code, for radio stations, beam approach and navigational aids, airfield beacons—to name but a few—all transmit their identification letters and other information in the morse code.

Composition of the Code

6. The morse code is composed of two elements, the "dot" (or short) and the "dash" (or long), which are sent either alone or in combination to represent letters or figures. The dot is taken as the unit. A dash is equal to three dots.

The Morse Code and Phonetic Alphabet

7a.

LETTERS

Letter	Word	Spoken As	Morse Code	Letter	Word	Spoken As	Morse Code
A	ALPHA	AL FAH	• —	N	NOVEMBER	NOVEM BER	— • — • —
B	BRAVO	BRAH VOH	— • • •	O	OSCAR	OSS CAR	— • — —
C	CHARLIE	CHAR LEE	— • — • •	P	PAPA	PAH PAH	• — — • •
D	DELTA	DELL TAH	— • • •	Q	QUEBEC	KEH BECK	— • — — • —
E	ECHO	ECK OH	•	R	ROMEO	ROH ME'OH	— • — • •
F	FOXTROT	FOKSTROT	• • — — •	S	SIERRA	SEE AIRRAH	• • • •
G	GOLF	GOLF	— • — •	T	TANGO	TANG GO	— • — —
H	HOTEL	HOH TELL	• • • •	U	UNIFORM	YOU NEE FORM	— • — — •
I	INDIA	IN DEE AH	• •	V	VICTOR	VIK TAH	• • • —
J	JULIET	JEW LEE ETT	• — — — —	W	WHISKEY	WISS KEY	• — — —
K	KILO	KEY LOH	— • — • —	X	X-RAY	ECKS RAY	— • • • —
L	LIMA	LEE MAH	— • • • •	Y	YANKEE	YANK KEY	— • — — —
M	MIKE	MIKE	— — —	Z	ZULU	ZOO LOO	— — • • •

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