

Chapter 11-1

ON AIR

When picking topics to chat with another amateur on air, think about what and how you are going to talk. There may be a lot of operators around the world listening in.

Most operators around the world speak and understand some English.

Phonetic Alphabet

The phonetic alphabet is a universal way of spelling a word. Your name is Bob and you have a noisy contact with another operator and your conversation may go as, “My name is Bob – Bravo Oscar Bravo”.

Knowing and using the phonetic alphabet can help with your radio communications. **Learn these.**

Phonetic Alphabet

A - Alpha	N - November	. - Decimal
B - Bravo	O - Oscar	. - Stop
C - Charlie	P - Papa	
D - Delta	Q - Quebec	0 - Zero
E - Echo	R - Romeo	1 - Wun
F - Foxtrot	S - Sierra	2 - Two
G - Golf	T - Tango	3 - Tree
H - Hotel	U - Uniform	4 - Fower
I - India	V - Victor	5 - Fife
J - Juliet	W - Whiskey	6 - Six
K - Kilo	X - X-ray	7 - Seven
L - Lima	Y - Yankee	8 - Ait
M - Mike	Z - Zulu	9 - Niner

Making a contact

Follow the following steps when you want to make a callout on the radio. Your call sign is VKyyyyy.

- Listen to see if anyone is on the frequency.
- If nothing is heard, continue. If the frequency is in use, move to another frequency.
- Key the microphone and announce, “**This is VKyyyyy, is this frequency in use?**”
- If there is no answer you are free to make a call.

Calling a station

You have a prearranged sked (In the context of amateur radio a sked is a pre-arranged or scheduled contact between ham radio operators.) and the time for the meeting in now.

First follow the steps listed in “Making a contact”.

If nothing is heard, then make the call.

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“VKxxx VKxxx VKxxx this is VKyyyy VKyyyy VKyyyy over.”

Station called. Station calling

For a HF call, you announce the call signs three times. If the call is on VHF or UHF, you only need to announce the call signs once. Once the call is established on HF, the callsigns need only be used once.

“Thanks Greg that’s great, VKxxx this is VKyyyy over.”

The use of the term “over” is not necessary but common practice.

Call signs must be used at the following times, even when conducting tests.

- At the beginning of a transmission
- At the end of the transmission
- Every 10 minutes during a transmission

General Calls

A general call to anyone is called a “CQ” call. On VHF and UHF

“CQ CQ CQ this is VKyyyy VKyyyy VKyyyy over.”

Calling anyone. Station calling

On VHF and UHF, you would announce your call sign and just say listening as the communications on these bands is localised.

“This is VKyyyy listening”.

Or

“This is VKyyyy listening on the Geelong repeater”.

Long Distance

We know calling CQ is for any one, but if you wanted to contact someone out sike VK, you use the term **DX**.

“CQ DX CQ DX CQ DX this is VKyyyy VKyyyy VKyyyy over.”

Calling anyone outside VK. Station calling

If you wish to make contact with anyone in a particular country like Japan, you would use the following call.

“CQ Japan CQ Japan CQ Japan this is VKyyyy VKyyyy VKyyyy over.”

Calling anyone in Japan. Station calling

Instead of using the country name, some operators use the country prefix.

“CQ JA CQ JA CQ JA this is VKyyyy VKyyyy VKyyyy over.”

Calling anyone in Japan. Station calling

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Q Codes

Q codes are abbreviations for some radio actions. The Q code was developed for morse code to reduce words to two or three letters. Q codes are prolific in aviation and maritime use outside the amateur world. Below is just a few of the most common you need to know.

The original Q-codes were created, circa 1909, by the British government as a "List of abbreviations ... for the use of British ships and coast stations The Q-codes facilitated communication between maritime radio operators speaking different languages, so they were soon adopted internationally.

Code Used as a Question

QRK - What is the readability of my signals?
QRL - Are you busy?
QRM - Are you being interfered with?
QRN - Are you troubled by static?
QRO - Shall I increase transmitter power?
QRP - Shall I decrease transmitter power?
QRS - Shall I send more slowly?
QRT - Shall I stop sending?
QRZ - Who is calling me?
QRV - Are you ready?
QRX - I will be right back.
QSB - Are my signals fading?
QSL - Can you acknowledge receipt?
QSO - Can you communicate with ... direct?
QSY Shall I change frequency?
QTH - What is your location?

Used as an Answer or statement

The readability of your signals is ...
I am busy.
I am being interfered with (M= manmade)
I am troubled by static (N=noise)
Increase transmitter power (O=output)
Decrease transmitter power (P=power)
Send more slowly (S=slow)
Stop sending (QRT=quiet)
You are being called by ...
I am ready
Please QRX one.
Your signals are fading
I am acknowledging receipt (L=letter)
I can communicate with ... direct
Change to another frequency
My location is (H=home)

Other abbreviations

BK - Signal used to interrupt a transmission on progress
CQ - General call to all stations
CW - Continuous wave or Morse code
DE - From, used to separate the callsign of the station called from that of the calling station
DX - Distant
K - Invitation to transmit
MSG - Message
PSE - Please
R - Received
RX -Receiver
TX - Transmitter
UR - Your

Learn these

Go to Chapter 11-1 Questions.

Have fun and stay safe.