

Phonetic Alphabet



Phonetic Alphabet

In a military situation, a message that isn't understood correctly can have critical consequences, therefore the military relies on the phonetic alphabet to clarify communication. The phonetic alphabet is a list of words used to identify letters in a message transmitted by radio or telephone.

For example, the word "Army" would be "Alfa Romero Mike Yankee" when spelled in the phonetic alphabet.

Phonetic Alphabet

The use of the phonetic alphabet helps to prevent confusion between similar sounding letters, such as “m” and “n”, and to clarify communications that may be garbled during transmission.

The current phonetic alphabet was adopted in 1957.

The following slides contain the letters of the alphabet along with the phonetic alphabet and the correct pronunciation.

“A”

Alfa

AL FAH

1913

Able

1927

Affirmative

1938

Afirm

WWII

Afirm

“B”

Bravo

BRAH VOH

1913

Boy

1927

Baker

1938

Baker

WWII

Baker

“C”

Charlie

CHAR LEE

1913

Cast

1927

Cast

1938

Cast

WWII

Charlie

“D”

Delta

DELL TAH

1913

1927

1938

WWII

Dog

Dog

Dog

Dog

“E”

Echo

ECK OH

1913

Easy

1927

Easy

1938

Easy

WWII

Easy

“F”

Foxtrot

FOKS TROT

1913

Fox

1927

Fox

1938

Fox

WWII

Fox

“G”

Golf

GOLF

1913

George

1927

George

1938

George

WWII

George

“H”

Hotel

HOH TELL

1913

1927

1938

WWII

Have

Hypo

Hypo

How

“|”

India

IN DEE AH

1913

1927

1938

WWII

Item

Interrogatory

Int

Int

“J”

Juliett

JEW LEE ETT

1913

Jig

1927

Jig

1938

Jig

WWII

Jig

“K”

Kilo

KEY LOW

1913

King

1927

King

1938

King

WWII

King

“L”

Lima

LEE MAH

1913

1927

1938

WWII

Love

Love

Love

Love

“M”

Mike

MIKE

1913

Mike

1927

Mike

1938

Mike

WWII

Mike

“N”

November

NO VEM BER

1913

1927

1938

WWII

Nan

Negative

Negat

Negat

“O”

Oscar

OSS CAH

1913

Oboe

1927

Option

1938

Option

WWII

Option

“P”

Papa

PAH PAH

1913

Pup

1927

Preparatory

1938

Prep

WWII

Prep

“Q”

Quebec

KEH BECK

1913

Quack

1927

Quack

1938

Queen

WWII

Queen

“R”

Romeo

ROW ME OH

1913

1927

1938

WWII

Rush

Roger

Roger

Roger

“S”

Sierra

SEE AIR RAH

1913

1927

1938

WWII

Sail

Sail

Sail

Sugar

“T”

Tango

TANG GO

1913

Tare

1927

Tare

1938

Tare

WWII

Tare

“U”

Uniform

YOU NEE FORM

1913

Unit

1927

Unit

1938

Unit

WWII

Uncle

“V”

Victor

VIK TAH

1913

Vice

1927

Vice

1938

Victor

WWII

Victor

“W”

Whiskey

WISS KEY

1913

Watch

1927

William

1938

William

WWII

William

“X”

X-ray

ECKS RAY

1913

X-ray

1927

X-ray

1938

X-ray

WWII

X-ray

“Y”

Yankee

YANG KEY

1913

Yoke

1927

Yoke

1938

Yoke

WWII

Yoke

“Z”

Zulu

ZOO LOO

1913

Zed

1927

Zed

1938

Zed

WWII

Zebra

Phonetic Numbers

There is a similar military phonetic system for numbers:

“0”

Zeero

“1”

Wun

“2”

Too

“3”

Tree

“4”

Fower

“5”

Fife

“6”

Siks

“7”

Seven

“8”

Ate

“9”

Niner