

ITU PHONETIC ALPHABET

A ALFA
B BRAVO
C CHARLIE
D DELTA
E ECHO
F FOXTROT
G GOLF
H HOTEL
I INDIA
J JULIETT
K KILO
L LIMA
M MIKE
N NOVEMBER
O OSCAR
P PAPA
Q QUEBEC
R ROMEO
S SIERRA
T TANGO
U UNIFORM
V VICTOR
W WHISKEY
X X-RAY
Y YANKEE
Z ZULU

THE R-S-T SYSTEM

Readability

- 1 – Unreadable.
- 2 – Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable.
- 3 – Readable with considerable difficulty
- 4 – Readable with practically no difficulty.
- 5 – Perfectly readable.

Signal Strength

- 1 – Faint signals, barely perceptible.
- 2 – Very weak signals.
- 3 – Weak signals.
- 4 – Fair signals.
- 5 – Fairly good signals.
- 6 – Good signals.
- 7 – Moderately strong signals.
- 8 – Strong signals.
- 9 – Extremely strong signals.

Tone (Used in CW)

- 1 – Sixty cycle a.c. or less, very rough and broad.
- 2 – Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad.
- 3 – Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered.
- 4 – Rough note, some trace of filtering.
- 5 – Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated.
- 6 – filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation.
- 7 – Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation.
- 8 – Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation.
- 9 – Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind.

FREQUENCY RANGES

MF (medium frequency). The frequency range 300-3000 kHz.

HF (high frequency). The frequency range 3-30 MHz.

VHF (very-high frequency). The frequency range 30-300 MHz.

UHF (ultra-high frequency). The frequency range 300-3000 MHz.

SHF (super-high frequency). The frequency range 3-30 GHz.

EHF (extremely high frequency). The frequency range 30-300 GHz.

10 mhz. and below – LSB (lower sideband)

Above 10 mhz. – USB (upper sideband)

STATE ABBREVIATIONS

Alabama ... AL
Alaska ... AK
Arizona ... AZ
Arkansas ... AR
California ... CA
Colorado ... CO
Connecticut ... CT
Delaware ... DE
District of Columbia ... DC
Florida ... FL
Georgia ... GA
Hawaii ... HI
Idaho ... ID
Illinois ... IL
Indiana ... IN
Iowa ... IO
Kansas ... KS
Kentucky ... KY
Louisiana ... LA
Maine ... ME
Maryland ... MD
Massachusetts ... MA
Michigan ... MI
Minnesota ... MN
Mississippi ... MS
Missouri ... MO
Montana ... MT
Nebraska ... NE
Nevada ... NV
New Hampshire ... NH
New Jersey ... NJ
New Mexico ... NM
New York ... NY
North Carolina ... NC
North Dakota ... ND
Ohio ... OH
Oklahoma ... OK
Oregon ... OR
Pennsylvania ... PA
Rhode Island ... RI
South Carolina ... SC
South Dakota ... SD
Tennessee ... TN
Texas ... TX

Utah ... UT
Vermont ... VT
Virginia ... VA
Washington ... WA
West Virginia ... WV
Wisconsin ... WI
Wyoming ... WY

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN VOICE CONTACT

(Q signals are meant for use in CW contacts, but some are frequently used in voice communication. Here is a list of these as well as some other commonly used abbreviations.)

CQ – calling any station
CW – Morse code (continuous wave)
DX – long-distance communication
OM – old man
SASE – self-addressed stamped envelope
XYL (YF) – wife (be careful; XYL implies no longer young!)
YL – young lady
QRM – man-made interference
QRN – natural noise
QRP – low power
QRT – quiet (shutting down station)
QRZ – next caller; also online callsign data base
QSB – signals fading
QSL – information understood (?)
QSL card – written proof of contact
QSO – ham conversation
QST – general call preceding message to all hams and ARRL members
QSY – change frequency
QTH – location
73 – best regards
88 – love and kisses