

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

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Prowords

Anyone who has experience in traffic and message handling is familiar with the shorthand of amateur radio message communications. Every part of the world has its own vocabulary that is distinct to that area.

When it comes to emergency communications, many words have become standardized ways of communicating certain phrases and concepts. They're called prowords and they facilitate communications, so you don't have to wonder what something or someone meant. Prowords all have distinct meanings. *Table 1* offers a sampling of some of the more common ones you may encounter in ham nets, especially when passing message traffic. To become a skilled

operator, you should know and be comfortable using these prowords. Please note that the following are not correct prowords and should not be used as prowords:

- Yes
- No
- Go (for Over)
- Go ahead (for Over)
- Repeat
- Standby
- Roger that (to indicate agreement)
- Send it (for Send your message)

If they occur in the body of a message, it is proper to transmit as written, but they should not be used as prowords.

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Proword	Meaning
Affirmative	Yes
All after [word]	Refers to all words following a word in the phrase in question
All before [word]	Refers to all words before a word in the phrase in question
Break	Used to separate message heading, body, and ending.
Check	A number indicating the number of words of text in the body of the message follows.
Correct	That is correct.
Correction	What I just said is incorrect, the correct form is _____. (This proword can only be used with in a transmission. After you say Over, the entire transmission must be resent in its correct form.)
Figures	Numerals follow.
From	Originator of this message.
Incorrect	That is not correct.
Initial	A single letter follows.
I read back	I read back to you the message I just received to confirm that I received it correctly.
I say again	I am retransmitting something previously sent. This can be used with All after, All before, Word after, or Word before.
I spell	Phonetic spelling follows. (When spelling say the word before and after spelling it. "Schmidt, I spell, Sierra, Charlie, Hotel, Mike, India, Delta, Tango, Schmidt.")
Message follows	I have a message for you which requires documenting.
More to follow	I have additional traffic for you.
Negative	No. Not received.
Out	End of transmission. No answer is required or expected.
Over	End of transmission. An answer is expected. Go ahead and transmit. (Note that the proword Over and the proword Out mean opposite things. One says don't answer, the other requires an answer. "Over and out" is never correct, regardless of what Hollywood thinks.)
Read back	Read back to me the message as you received it.
Read back correct	Your read back of the message was correct.
Roger	I have received your transmission satisfactorily. (This does not indicate agreement with the content of the message, only that you received it.)
Say again	A request to retransmit all or a portion of a transmission. This can be used with All after, All before, Word after, or Word before.
Send your message	I am ready to copy your message.
This is	This transmission is from the station whose callsign follows.
Time	The file time or date-time group of the message follows.
To	The addressee of this message is.
Wait	I make a short pause.
Wait out	I make a longer pause. Other stations can use the frequency until I return.
Wilco	I have received the message, understand it, and will comply. (Note that this meaning includes the meaning of Roger. It is never correct to say Roger Wilco.)
Word after [word]	Refers to the word immediately following the word in phrase
Word before [word]	Refers to the word immediately before the word in the phrase

Table 1. Commonly used prowords and their meanings.