

## Phonetics and Numerals

Phonetic alphabets are used to clarify letters that sound similar when transmitted over the radio. They are commonly used in sending callsigns and in cases where a single letter is used to designate something. (Search team A would be transmitted as "Search team alpha.") Many phonetic systems have been devised. The one provided in *Table 2* is the one used by military services and the international aviation community and is the most commonly used among amateurs. As a skilled operator, you should know these phonetics and be able to readily use them. When spelling a word, precede your

Letter	Phonetic	Pronunciation (Emphasis is on the UPPER-CASE syllable)
A	alpha	AL-fa
B	bravo	BRA-voh
C	charlie	CHAR-lee
D	delta	DEL-ta
E	echo	ECK-oh
F	foxtrot	FOX-trot
G	golf	GOLF
H	hotel	ho-TEL
I	india	IN-dee-ah
J	juliet	JOO-lee-ETT
K	kilo	KEE-loh
L	lima	LEE-ma
M	mike	MIKE
N	november	no-VEM-ber
O	oscar	OS-car
P	papa	pa-PA
Q	quebec	kay-BECK
R	romeo	RO-mee-oh
S	sierra	see-AIR-ah
T	tango	TAN-go
U	uniform	YOO-nee-form
V	victor	VIK-tah
W	whiskey	WISS-key
X	x-ray	ECKS-ray
Y	yankee	YANG-kee
Z	zulu	ZOO-loo

*Table 2. Standard phonetic alphabet, including recommended pronunciations for greatest clarity.*

Numeral	Pronunciation
1	Wun
2	Too
3	Tree
4	FOW-er
5	Fife
6	Six
7	SEV-en
8	Ate
9	NIGH-ner (Nine can easily be confused with five over the radio, so "niner" is used. Do not say "fiver" for five, as that defeats the purpose of saying "niner.")
0	ZEE-roh
100	HUN-dred
1000	TOU-sand

*Table 3. Phonetics for numbers. See text for protocols on transmitting numbers over the air.*

phonetic spelling with the proword I SPELL and say the full word both before and after the phonetic spelling. For example, "Contact Mr. Liwai, I SPELL Lima India Whiskey Alpha India, Liwai, at his home now."

Numbers (*Table 3*) are spoken similarly to what we do in normal talking with a couple of exceptions. Numerals are normally transmitted as individual digits. For example, 963 would be pronounced "Niner six tree." The digits 13-2973 would be "One tree dash two niner seven tree." Even hundreds and thousands can be spoken as hundreds and thousands, e.g., 2600 would be "Two six HUN-dred" and 96,000 would be "Niner six TOU-sand." Numbers should be preceded by the proword Figures to alert the recipient of what to expect.

When writing the numeral zero, you should put a slash through it to distinguish it from the letter O. (Ø, O). Putting a slash through letter Z will distinguish it from the number 2. (Z, 2).

Prowords can help ease confusion and reduce stress during a high-traffic emergent event. Due to the nature and usage of prowords, they can be utilized across cultural and geographic lines.

## DITS and DAHS

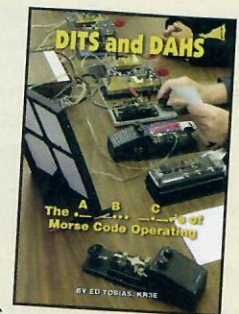
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