Q-Codes in Radio Communication

The Q-code is a standardised collection of three-letter codes that each start with the letter "Q". It is an operating signal initially developed for commercial radiotelegraph communication and later adopted by other radio services, especially amateur radio. To distinguish the use of a Q-code transmitted as a question from the same Q-code transmitted as a statement, operators either prefixed it with the military network question marker "INT" (dit dit dah dit dah) or suffixed it with the standard Morse question mark UD (dit dit dah dah dit dit).

Amateur Radio

Amateur radio has adapted two different sets of Q-codes for use in amateur communications. The first set comes from the ITU civil series QRA through QUZ. Most of the meanings are identical to the ITU definitions, however, they must be looked at in the context of amateur communications. For example, QSJ? asks what the charges are for sending the telegraph. Since amateur communications are without charge, this Q-code would not make sense.

The second set is the set of QN Signals, used only in ARRL NTS nets. These operating signals generally have no equivalent in the ACP 131 publication or ITU publications, and are specifically defined only for use in ARRL NTS nets. They are not used in casual amateur radio communications.

Selected Q-codes were soon adopted by amateur radio operators. In December 1915, the American Radio Relay League began publication of a magazine titled *QST*, named after the Q-code for "General call to all stations". In amateur radio, the Q-codes were originally used in Morse code transmissions to shorten lengthy phrases and were followed by a Morse code question mark (··▬ ▬··) if the phrase was a question.

codes are commonly used in voice communications as shorthand nouns, verbs, and adjectives making up phrases. For example, an amateur radio operator will complain about QRM (man-made interference), or tell another operator that there is "QSB on the signal" (fading); "to QSY" is to change your operating frequency, or to break in on a conversation QSK is often used even on VHF and UHF frequencies. (See also Informal usage, below.)

Q-codes as adapted for use in amateur radio

Code	Question	Answer or statement
QRA	What is the name (or call sign) of your station?	The name (or call sign) of my station is ____
QRG	Will you tell me my exact frequency (or that of ____)?	Your exact frequency (or that of ____) is ____ kHz (or MHz).
QRH	Does my frequency vary?	Your frequency varies.
QRI	How is the tone of my transmission?	The tone of your transmission is (1. Good; 2. Variable; 3. Bad)

QRJ	How many voice contacts do you want to make?	I want to make ____ voice contacts.
QRK	What is the readability of my signals (or those of ____)?	The readability of your signals (or those of ____) is ____ (1 to 5).
QRL	Are you busy?	I am busy (in contact with ____). Please do not interfere.
QRM	Do you have (human-made) interference?	I have (human-made) interference.
QRN	Are you troubled by (natural) static?	I am troubled by (natural) static.
QRO	Shall I increase power?	Increase power.
QRP	Shall I decrease power?	Decrease power.
QRQ	Shall I send faster?	Send faster (____ WPM).
QRS	Shall I send more slowly?	Send more slowly (____ WPM).
QRT	Shall I cease or suspend operation? / shutoff the radio?	I am suspending operation / shutting off the radio.
QRU	Have you anything for me?	I have ____ messages for you.
QRV	Are you ready?	I am ready.
QRW	Shall I inform ____ that you are calling (him) on ____ kHz (or MHz)?	Please inform ____ that I am calling (him) on ____ kHz (or MHz).
QRX	Shall I standby? / When will you call me again?	Please standby / I will call you again at ____ (hours) on ____ kHz (or MHz)
QRZ	Who is calling me?	You are being called by ____ on ____ kHz (or MHz)
QSA	What is the strength of my signals (or those of ____)?	The strength of your signals (or those of ____) is ____ (1 to 5).
QSB	Are my signals fading?	Your signals are fading.
QSD	Is my keying defective?	Your keying is defective.
QSG	Shall I send ____ telegrams (messages) at a time?	Send ____ telegrams (messages) at a time.
QSK	Can you hear me between your signals?	I can hear you between my signals.

Code	Question	Answer
QSL	Can you acknowledge receipt?	I will acknowledge receipt.
QSM	Shall I repeat the last telegram (message) which I sent you, or some previous telegram (message)?	Repeat the last telegram (message) which you sent me (or telegram(s) / message(s) numbers(s) ____).
QSN	Did you hear me (or ____ (call sign)) on ____ kHz (or MHz)?	I did hear you (or ____ (call sign)) on ____ kHz (or MHz).
QSO	Can you communicate with ____ direct or by relay?	I can communicate with ____ direct (or by relay through ____).
QSP	Will you relay a message to ____ ?	I will relay a message to ____ .
QSR	Do you want me to repeat my call?	Please repeat your call; I did not hear you.
QSS	What working frequency will you use?	I will use the working frequency ____ kHz (or MHz).
QST	Should I repeat the prior message to all amateurs I contact?	Here follows a broadcast message to all amateurs.
QSU	Shall I send or reply on this frequency (or on ____ kHz (or MHz))?	Send or reply on this frequency (or on ____ kHz (or MHz)).
QSW	Will you send on this frequency (or on ____ kHz (or MHz))?	I am going to send on this frequency (or on ____ kHz (or MHz)).
QSX	Will you listen to ____ (call sign(s) on ____ kHz (or MHz))?	I am listening to ____ (call sign(s) on ____ kHz (or MHz))
QSY	Shall I change to transmission on another frequency?	Change to transmission on another frequency (or on ____ kHz (or MHz)).
QSZ	Shall I send each word or group more than once?	Send each word or group twice (or ____ times).
QTA	Shall I cancel telegram (message) number ____ as if it had not been sent?	Cancel telegram (message) number ____ as if it had not been sent.
QTC	How many telegrams (messages) have you to send?	I have ____ telegrams (messages) for you (or for ____).
QTH	What is your position in latitude and longitude? (or according to any other indication)	My position is ____ latitude ____ longitude.
QTR	What is the correct time?	The correct time is ____ hours UTC.
QTU	At what times are you operating?	I am operating from ____ to ____ hours.

QTX	Will you keep your station open for further communication with me until further notice (or until ____ hours)?	I will keep my station open for further communication with you until further notice (or until ____ hours).
QUA	Have you news of ____ (call sign)?	Here is news of ____ (call sign).
QUC	What is the number (or other indication) of the last message you received from me (or from ____ (call sign))?	The number (or other indication) of the last message I received from you (or from ____ (call sign)) is ____.
QUD	Have you received the urgency signal sent by ____ (call sign of mobile station)?	I have received the urgency signal sent by ____ (call sign of mobile station) at ____ hours.
QUE	Can you speak in ____ (language) – with interpreter if necessary – if so, on what frequencies?	I can speak in ____ (language) on ____ kHz (or MHz).
QUF	Have you received the distress signal sent by ____ (call sign of mobile station)?	I have received the distress signal sent by ____ (call sign of mobile station) at ____ hours.

Notes for response to radiotelegraph Q-codes

Responses to a radiotelegraph Q-code query or a Q-code assertion may vary depending upon the code. For Q-code assertions or queries which only need to be acknowledged as received, the usual practice is to respond with the letter "R" for "Roger" which means "Received correctly". Sending an "R" merely means the code has been correctly received and does not necessarily mean that the receiving operator has taken any other action.

For Q-code queries that need to be answered in the affirmative, the usual practice is to respond with the letter "C" (Sounds like the Spanish word "Si"). For Q-code queries that need to be answered in the negative, the usual practice it to respond with the letter "N" for "no". For those Q-code assertions that merely need to be acknowledged as understood, the usual practice is to respond with the prosign SN (or VE) which means "understood". On telegraph cable networks "KK" was often used at the end of a reply to a Q-code to mean "OK" or "Acknowledged". This practice predates amateur radio as telegraph operators in the late 19th century are known to have used it.

Informal usage

QLF – "Are you sending with your left foot? Try sending with your left foot!" A humorously derogatory comment about the quality of a person's sending.

QNB – QNB? "How many buttons on your radio?" "QNB 100/5" Means there are 100 and I know what 5 of them do.

QSH – "Stay happy and healthy."

QSK – "I can hear you during my transmission" – refers to a particular mode of Morse code operating often called QSK operation (full break-in) in which the receiver is quickly enabled during the spaces between the dits and dahs, which allows another operator to interrupt transmissions. Many modern transceivers incorporate this function, sometimes referred to as *full break-in* as against *semi-break-in* in which there is a short delay before the transceiver goes to receive.

QSY – "Change to transmission on another frequency"; colloquially, "move [=change address]". E.g., "When did GKB QSY from Northolt to Portishead?"

QTH – "My location is ____"; colloquially in voice or writing, "location". E.g., "The OCF *[antenna type]* is an interesting build but at my QTH a disappointing performer."

QTHR – "At the registered location ____"; chiefly British use. Historically, the location in the printed Callbook; modernly, "as given in online government records for my callsign". E.g., "You can contact me QTHR".

All services (QRA–QUZ)

First defined by the Washington 1927 ITU Radio Regulations. Later defined by ITU-R in Appendix 9 to the Radio Regulations Annex to the *International Telecommunications Convention* (Atlantic City, 1947). The current callsign table is found in ITU-R Appendix 42. Current interpretation of the Q-code can be found in ITU-R Appendices 14 and 15.

ITU Radio Regulations 1990, Appendix 13: Miscellaneous Abbreviations and Signals to be Used in Radiotelegraphy Communications Except in the Maritime Mobile Service:

	Question ?	Answer or advice
QRA	What is the name of your vessel (*or* station)?	The name of my vessel (*or* station) is ____.
QRB	How far approximately are you from my station?	The approximate distance between our stations is ____ nautical miles (*or* km).
QRC	By what private enterprise (*or* state administration) are the accounts for charges for your station settled?	The accounts for charges of my station are settled by the private enterprise ____ (*or* state administration).
QRD	Where are you bound for and where are you from?	I am bound for ____ from ____.
QRE	What is your estimated time of arrival at ____ (*or* over ____) (*place*)?	My estimated time of arrival at ____ (*or* over ____) (*place*) is ____ hours.
QRF	Are you returning to ____ (*place*)?	I am returning to ____ (*place*). *or* Return to ____ (*place*).
QRG	Will you tell me my exact frequency (*or* that of ____)?	Your exact frequency (*or* that of ____) is ____ kHz (*or* MHz).
QRH	Does my frequency vary?	Your frequency varies.
QRI	How is the tone of my transmission?	The tone of your transmission is ____. 1. good 2. variable 3. bad.

QRJ	How many radiotelephone calls have you to book?	I have ____ radiotelephone calls to book.
QRK	What is the intelligibility of my signals (*or* those of ____)?	The intelligibility of your signals (*or* those of ____) is ____ 1. bad 2. poor 3. fair 4. good 5. excellent.
QRL	Are you busy?	I am busy (*or* I am busy with ____). Please do not interfere.
QRM	Are you being interfered with? *or* Is my transmission being interfered with?	I am being interfered wit *or* Your transmission is being interfered with ____ (1. nil 2. slightly 3. moderately 4. severely 5. extremely).
QRN	Are you troubled by static?	I am troubled by static (____). (1. nil 2. slightly 3. moderately 4. severely 5. extremely).
QRO	Shall I increase transmitter power?	Increase transmitter power.
QRP	Shall I decrease transmitter power?	Decrease transmitter power.
QRQ	Shall I send faster?	Send faster (____ words per minute).
QRR	Are you ready for automatic operation?	I am ready for automatic operation. Send at ____ words per minute.

QRS	Shall I send more slowly?	Send more slowly (____ words per minute).
QRT	Shall I stop sending?	Stop sending.
QRU	Have you anything for me?	I have nothing for you.
QRV	Are you ready?	I am ready.
QRW	Shall I inform ____ that you are calling him on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)?	Please inform ____ that I am calling him on ____ kHz (*or* MHz).
QRX	When will you call me again?	I will call you again at ____ hours (on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)).
QRY	What is my turn? (*Relates to communication*).	Your turn is Number ____ (*or according to any other indication*). (*Relates to communication*).
QRZ	Who is calling me?	You are being called by ____ (on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)).
QSA	What is the strength of my signals (*or* those of ____)?	The strength of your signals (*or* those of ____) is ____. 1. scarcely perceptible 2. weak 3. fairly good 4. good 5. very good.
QSB	Are my signals fading?	Your signals are fading.
QSC	Are you a cargo vessel? *or* Are you a low traffic ship?	I am a cargo vessel. *or* I am a low traffic ship.
QSD	Is my keying defective? *or* Are my signals mutilated?	Your keying is defective. *or* Your signals are mutilated.
QSE*	What is the estimated drift of the survival craft?	The estimated drift of the survival craft is ____ (*figures*

		and units).
QSF*	Have you effected rescue?	I have effected rescue and am proceeding to ____ base (with ____ persons injured requiring ambulance).
QSG	Shall I send ____ telegrams at a time?	Send ____ telegrams at a time.
QSH	Are you able to home on your direction-finding equipment?	I am able to home on my D/F equipment (on station ____).
QSI		I have been unable to break in on your transmission. *or* Will you inform ____ (*call sign*) that I have been unable to break in on his transmission (on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)).
QSJ	What is the charge to be collected to ____ including your internal charge?	The charge to be collected to ____ including my internal charge is ____ francs.
QSK	Can you hear me between your signals and if so can I break in on your transmission?	I can hear you between my signals; break in on my transmission.
QSL	Can you acknowledge receipt?	I am acknowledging receipt.
QSM	Shall I repeat the last telegram which I sent you (*or* some previous telegram)?	Repeat the last telegram which you sent me (*or* telegram(s) number(s) ____).
QSN	Did you hear me (*or* ____ (*call sign*)) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)?	I did hear you (*or* ____ (*call sign*)) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz).
QSO	Can you communicate with ____ direct (*or* by relay)?	I can communicate with ____ direct (*or* by relay through ____).
QSP	Will you relay to ____ free of charge?	I will relay to ____ free of charge.
QSQ	Have you a doctor on board (*or* is ____ (*name of person*) on board)?	I have a doctor on board (*or* ____ (*name of person*) is on board).
QSR	Shall I repeat the call on the calling frequency?	Repeat your call on the calling frequency; did not hear you (*or* have interference).
QSS	What working frequency will you use?	I will use the working frequency ____ kHz (*or* MHz) (*in*

		the HF bands normally only the last three figures of the frequency need be given).
QSU	Shall I send or reply on this frequency (*or* on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)) (with emissions of class ____)?	Send or reply on this frequency (*or* on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)) (with emissions of class ____).
QSV	Shall I send a series of Vs on this frequency (*or* on ____ kHz (*or* MHz))?	Send a series of Vs on this frequency (*or* on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)).
QSW	Will you send on this frequency (*or* on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)) (with emissions of class ____)?	I am going to send on this frequency (*or* on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)) (with emissions of class ____).
QSX	Will you listen to ____ (*call sign(s)*) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)? *or* Will you listen to ____ (*call sign(s)*) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz), or in the bands ____ / channels ____ ?	I am listening to ____ (*call sign(s)*) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz) *or* I am listening to ____ (*call sign(s)*) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz), or in the bands ____ / channels ____.
QSY	Should I change to transmission on another frequency? If so what one?	Change to transmission on another frequency [*or* on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)].
QSZ	Shall I send each word or group more than once?	Send each word or group twice (*or* ____ times).
QTA	Shall I cancel telegram (*or* message) number ____ ?	Cancel telegram (*or* message) number ____.
QTB	Do you agree with my counting of words?	I do not agree with your counting of words; I will repeat the first letter or digit of each word or group.
QTC	How many telegrams have you to send?	I have ____ telegrams for you (*or* for ____).
QTD*	What has the rescue vessel or rescue aircraft recovered?	____ (*identification*) has recovered ____. 1. ____ (*number*) survivors 2. wreckage 3. ____ (*number*) bodies.
QTE	What is my TRUE bearing from you? *or* What is my TRUE bearing from ____ (*call sign*)?	Your TRUE bearing from me is ____ degrees at ____ hours. *or*

	or What is the TRUE bearing of ____ (*call sign*) from ____ (*call sign*)?	Your TRUE bearing from ____ (*call sign*) was ____ degrees at ____ hours. *or* The TRUE bearing of ____ (*call sign*) from ____ (*call sign*) was ____ degrees at ____ hours.
QTF	Will you give me the position of my station according to the bearings taken by the direction-finding stations which you control?	The position of your station according to the bearings taken by the D/F stations which I control was ____ latitude, ____ longitude (*or other indication of position*), class ____ at ____ hours.
QTG	Will you send two dashes of ten seconds each followed by your call sign (repeated ____ times) (on ____ kHz (*or* MHz))? *or* Will you request ____ to send two dashes of ten seconds followed by his call sign (repeated ____ times) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)?	I am going to send two dashes of ten seconds each followed by my call sign (repeated ____ times) (on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)). *or* I have requested ____ to send two dashes of ten seconds followed by his call sign (repeated ____ times) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz).
QTH	What is your position in latitude and longitude (*or according to any other indication*)?	My position is ____ latitude, ____ longitude (*or according to any other indication*).
QTI	What is your TRUE track?	My TRUE track is ____ degrees.[
QTI*	What is your TRUE course?	My TRUE course is ____ degrees.
QTJ*	What is your speed? (*Requests the speed of a ship or aircraft through the water or air respectively*).	My speed is ____ knots (*or* ____ kilometres per hour or ____ statute miles per hour). (*Indicates the speed of a ship or aircraft through the water or air respectively*).
QTK*	What is the speed of your aircraft in relation to the surface of the Earth?	The speed of my aircraft in relation to the surface of the Earth is ____ knots (*or* ____ kilometres per hour or ____ statute miles per hour).

QTL*	What is your TRUE heading?	My TRUE heading is ____ degrees.
QTM*	What is your MAGNETIC heading?	My MAGNETIC heading is ____ degrees.
QTN	At what time did you depart from ____ (*place*)?	I departed from ____ (*place*) at ____ hours.
QTO	Have you left dock (*or* port)? *or* Are you airborne?	I have left dock (*or* port). *or* I am airborne.
QTP	Are you going to enter dock (*or* port)? *or* Are you going to alight (*or* land)?	I am going to enter dock (*or* port). *or* I am going to alight (*or* land).
QTQ	Can you communicate with my station by means of the International Code of Signals (INTERCO)?	I am going to communicate with your station by means of the International Code of Signals (INTERCO).
QTR	What is the correct time?	The correct time is ____ hours.
QTS	Will you send your call sign for tuning purposes or so that your frequency can be measured now (*or* at ____ hours) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz)? *or* Will you send your call sign (*and/or* name) for ____ seconds?	I will send my call sign for tuning purposes or so that my frequency may be measured now (*or* at ____ hours) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz) *or* I will send my call sign (*and/or* name) for ____ seconds.
QTT		The identification signal which follows is superimposed on another transmission.
QTU	What are the hours during which your station is open?	My station is open from ____ to ____ hours.
QTV	Shall I stand guard for you on the frequency of ____ kHz (*or* MHz) (from ____ to ____ hours)?	Stand guard for me on the frequency of ____ kHz (*or* MHz) (from ____ to ____ hours).
QTW*	What is the condition of survivors?	Survivors are in ____ condition and urgently need ____.
QTX	Will you keep your station open for further communication with me until further notice (*or* until ____ hours)?	I will keep my station open for further communication with you until further notice (*or* until ____ hours).

Code	Question	Answer/Statement
QTY*	Are you proceeding to the position of incident and if so when do you expect to arrive?	I am proceeding to the position of incident and expect to arrive at ____ hours (on ____ (*date*)).
QTZ*	Are you continuing the search?	I am continuing the search for ____ (aircraft, ship, survival craft, survivors or wreckage).
QUA	Have you news of ____ (*call sign*)?	Here is news of ____ (*call sign*).
QUB*	Can you give me in the following order information concerning: the direction in degrees TRUE and speed of the surface wind; visibility; present weather; and amount, type and height of base of cloud above surface elevation at ____ (*place of observation*)?	Here is the information requested: ____ (*The units used for speed and distances should be indicated.*)
QUC	What is the number (*or other indication*) of the last message you received from me (*or* from ____ (*call sign*))?	The number (*or other indication*) of the last message I received from you (*or* from ____ (*call sign*)) is ____.
QUD	Have you received the urgency signal sent by ____ (*call sign of mobile station*)?	I have received the urgency signal sent by ____ (*call sign of mobile station*) at ____ hours.
QUE	Can you use telephony in ____ (*language*), with interpreter if necessary; if so, on what frequencies? *or* Can you speak in ____ (*language*), – with interpreter if necessary; if so, on what frequencies?	I can use telephony in ____ (*language*) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz). *or* I can speak in ____ (*language*) on ____ kHz (*or* MHz).
QUF	Have you received the distress signal sent by ____ (*call sign of mobile station*)?	I have received the distress signal sent by ____ (*call sign of mobile station*) at ____ hours.
QUG	Will you be forced to alight (*or* land)?	I am forced to alight (*or* land) immediately. *or* I shall be forced to alight (*or* land) at ____ (position or place) at ____ hours.
QUH*	Will you give me the present barometric pressure at sea level?	The present barometric pressure at sea level is ____ (*units*).
QUI	Are your navigation lights working?	My navigation lights are working.

QUJ	Will you indicate the TRUE track to reach you (*or* ____)?	The TRUE track to reach me (*or* ____) is ____ degrees at ____ hours.
QUK	Can you tell me the condition of the sea observed at ____ (place or coordinates)?	The sea at ____ (place or coordinates) is ____.
QUL	Can you tell me the swell observed at ____ (place or coordinates)?	The swell at ____ (place or coordinates) is ____.
QUM	May I resume normal working?	Normal working may be resumed.
QUN	*1. When directed to all stations:* Will vessels in my immediate vicinity ____. *or* (in the vicinity of ____ latitude, ____ longitude). *or* (in the vicinity of ____) please indicate their position, TRUE course and speed? *or* *2. When directed to a single station:* please indicate their position, TRUE course and speed?	My position, TRUE course and speed are ____.
QUO*	Shall I search for ____. 1. aircraft 2. ship 3. survival craft in the vicinity of ____ latitude, ____ longitude (*or according to any other indication*)?	Please search for ____. 1. aircraft 2. ship 3. survival craft in the vicinity of ____ latitude, ____ longitude (*or according to any other indication*).
QUP	Will you indicate your position by 1. searchlight 2. black smoke trail 3. pyrotechnic lights?	My position is indicated by 1. searchlight 2. black smoke trail 3. pyrotechnic lights.
QUQ	Shall I train my searchlight nearly vertical on a cloud, occulting if possible and, if your aircraft is seen, deflect the beam up wind and on the water (*or* land) to facilitate your landing?	Please train your searchlight on a cloud, occulting if possible and, if my aircraft is seen or heard, deflect the beam up wind and on the water (*or* land) to facilitate

		my landing.
QUR*	Have survivors ____. 1. received survival equipment 2. been picked up by rescue vessel 3. been reached by ground rescue party?	Survivors ____. 1. are in possession of survival equipment dropped by ____. 2. have been picked up by rescue vessel 3. have been reached by ground rescue party.
QUS*	Have you sighted survivors or wreckage? If so, in what position?	Have sighted ____. 1. survivors in water 2. survivors on rafts 3. wreckage in position ____ latitude, ____ longitude (*or according to any other indication*).
QUT*	Is position of incident marked?	Position of incident is marked by ____. 1. flame or smoke float 2. sea marker 3. sea marker dye 4. ____ (*specify other marking*).
QUU*	Shall I home ship or aircraft to my position?	Home ship or aircraft ____ (*call sign*) ____. 1. to your position by transmitting your call sign and long dashes on ____ kHz (*or* MHz) 2. by transmitting on ____ kHz (*or* MHz) TRUE track to reach you.
QUW*	Are you in the search area designated as ____ (*designator or latitude and longitude*)?	I am in the ____ (*designation*) search area.
QUX	Do you have any navigational warnings or gale warnings in force?	I have the following navigational warning(s) or gale warning(s) in force: ____.
QUY*	Is position of survival craft marked?	Position of survival craft was marked at ____ hours by ____. 1. flame or smoke float 2. sea marker

		3. sea marker dye 4. ____ (*specify other marking*).
QUZ	May I resume restricted working?	Distress phase still in force; restricted working may be resumed.

Morse code abbreviations

Morse code abbreviations are used to speed up Morse communications by foreshortening textual words and phrases. Morse abbreviations are short forms representing normal textual words and phrases formed from some (fewer) characters *borrowed* from the words or phrases being abbreviated.

From 1845 until well into the second half of the 20th century, commercial telegraphic code books were used to shorten telegrams, e.g. **PASCOELA** = "*Locals have plundered everything from the wreck.*"However, these cyphers are distinct from abbreviations.

Word and phrase abbreviations

The following Table of Morse code abbreviations and further references to Brevity codes such as 92 Code, Q code, Z code and R-S-T system serve to facilitate fast and efficient Morse code communications.

Abbreviation	Meaning
AA	All after (used after question mark to request a repetition)
AB	All before (similarly)
ADRS	Address
ADS	Address
AGN	Again
AR	End of transmission.
AS	Wait
BK	Break (to pause transmission of a message, say)
BN	All between
C	Yes; correct
CFM	Confirm
CK	Check
CL	Closing (I am closing my station)
CQ	Calling ... (calling all stations, any station)
CQD	All stations distress (used preceding **SOS** to let all operators know of an impending distress signal)

CS	Call sign (used to request a call sign)
DE	From (or "this is")
DX	Distance (sometimes refers to long distance contact), foreign countries
FM	From
FWD	Forward
II	I say again
K	Invitation to transmit
KN	Over to you; only the station named should respond (e.g. **W7PTH DE W1AW** KN)
LID	Poor operator
MSG	Prefix indicating a message to or from the master of a ship concerning its operation or navigation
N	No; nine
NIL	I have nothing to send you
NR	Number follows
OK	Okay
PLS	Please
PPR	Paper
PSE	Please
PX	Prefix
R	Received as transmitted (origin of "Roger")
RPT	Report / Repeat please / I repeat as follows
RST	Signal report format (Readability-Signal Strength-Tone)
SFR	So far (proword)
SIG	Signature
SK	Out (prosign), end of contact

SK	Silent Key (a deceased radio amateur)
SVP	Please (*French*: "S'il vous plaît")
TU	Thank You
W	Word / Words
WA	Word after
WB	Word before
WC	Wilco
WD	Word / Words
WX	Weather / Weather report follows
Z	Zulu time i.e. UTC
73	Best regards
88	Love and kisses

An amateur radio Morse code conversation example

To make Morse code communications faster and more efficient, there are many internationally agreed patterns or conventions of communication which include: extensive use of abbreviations, use of brevity codes such as 92 Code, RST code, Q code, Z code as well as the use of Morse prosigns. The skills required to have efficient fast conversations with Morse comprise more than simply knowing the Morse code symbols for the alphabet and numerals. Skilled telegraphists must also know many traditional International Morse code communications conventions.

In the following example of a typical casual Morse code conversation between two stations there is extensive use of such: Morse code abbreviations, brevity codes, Morse procedural signs, and other such conventions.

An example casual Morse code (CW) conversation between Station S1 and Station S2 is illustrated in the following paragraphs. Here the actual Morse code information stream sent by each station (S1 and S2) is shown in bold face type, in a grey box, and is followed below each bold face transmission by an *interpretation* of the message sent, together with short explanations of the codes. These translations and explanations are shown below each station's indicated transmission data stream.

S1 transmits Morse message:

CQ CQ CQ DE S1 K

Calling anyone (**CQ CQ CQ**) from (**DE**) station S1. Over to anyone (**K**).

S2 transmits Morse message:

S1 DE S2 KN

To station S1 from station S2. Over to you only.

(KN = "–·– –·" is the unofficial prosign for inviting a reply only from the station named in the message; it is the same as the code for open parentheses [(] punctuation symbol.[4])

S1 transmits Morse message:

S2 DE S1 = GA DR OM UR RST 5NN HR = QTH TIMBUKTU = OP IS JOHN = HW? S2 DE S1 KN

To station S2 from station S1.
Good afternoon dear old man. You are RST 599 here

(Note: **RST** is the **R**eadability, **S**trength, and **T**one report code; the **N**s are abbreviations for the number **9**. **RST 5NN** reports the signal is very readable (**5**) and very strong, with very good tone.

I'm located (**QTH**) in Timbuktu.
The station operator's (**OP**) name is John.
How do you copy? (**HW?**)
To station S2 from station S1: Over to you only.

(Note that the equal signs [=] in the code should be interpreted here as the *new section* prosign which is also the symbol for a *double hyphen* [=].[4] See discussion in subsection below.)

S2 transmits Morse message:

S1 DE S2 = TNX FB RPRT DR OM JOHN UR 559 = QTH HIMALAYA = NM IS ANDY S1 DE S2 KN

To station S1 from station S2.
Thanks for the good report dear old man John. I read you 559

(**FB** or *Fine Business* means "good".)
(very readable (**5**), average strength (**5**), very good tone (**9**).)

I am in (**QTH**) the Himalayas.
My name (**NM**) is Andy.
To station S1 from station S2: Over to you only.

S1 transmits Morse message:

S2 DE S1 = OK TNX QSO DR ANDY = 73 ES HPE CUAGN S2 DE S1 KN

To station S2 from station S1.
Okay, thanks for this conversation (**QSO**), dear Andy.
Best regards (**73**) and (**ES**) hope (**HPE**) to see you again (**CUAGN**)
To station S2 from station S1: Over to you only.

S2 sends Morse message:

S1 DE S2 = R TU CUAGN 73 S1 DE S2 SK

To station S1 from station S2.
Roger (**R**)
Thank you (**TU**) see you again (**CUAGN**) Best regards (**73**)
To station S1 from station S2: Signing off.

(SK = "···–·–" = *end of work* prosign = "no more messages")

0-E Code Abbreviations

Not only can you tell someone that you want to send them "love and kisses," but also pretty much everything in between. Quickly find the abbreviation you need here for 0-E.
     30 - I have no more to send
     73 - Best regards
     88 - Love and kisses
     AA - All after
     AB - All before

AM - Amplitude modulation
BK - Break, break-in
BN - All between; been
BT - Separation (add a space)
B4 - Before
C - Yes, correct
CK - Check
CL - I am closing my station; call
CQ - Calling any station
CU - See you
DA - Day
DE - From; this is
DN - Down
DR - Dear
DX - Distance
EL - Element
ES - And

F-N Morse Code Abbreviations
G-
Morse code is a diverse short-hand language. Not only can it be used in beeps, but it works with lights too. Send your signals for "from" to "now" using these abbreviations.
FB - Excellent
FM - Frequency modulation; from
GA - Go ahead; good afternoon
GB - Goodbye
GD - Good
GE - Good evening
GG - Going
GM - Good morning
GN - Good night
GV - Give
HH - Error in sending

HI - The telegraph laugh; high
HQ - Headquarters
HR - Here; hear
HV - Have
HW - How, how copy?
LV - Leave
MA - Milliamperes
N - No; negative; incorrect
ND - Nothing doing
NM - No more
NR - Number
NW - Now; I resume transmission

O-Y Code Abbreviations
P-
From "old chap" to "year," you are covered when it comes to Morse code. If you're looking for a short abbreviation from O-Y, you're in the right place.
OB - Old boy
OC - Old chap
OM - Old man
OP - Operator
OT - Oldtimer; old top
PT - Point
PX - Press
R - Received as transmitted; are; decimal point
RC - Ragchew
RE - Concerning; regarding
RX - Receive, receiver
SS - Sweepstakes
T - Zero
TR - Transmit
T/R - Transmit/receive
TT - That

TU - Thank you
TX - Transmitter; transmit
U - You
VY - Very
W - Watts
WA - Word after
WB - Word before
WD - Word
WL - Well; will
WX- Weather
YL - Young lady
YR - Year

Three or More Letter Abbreviations

Trying to condense all Morse code abbreviations down to just one or two letters would be an impossibility. Not only would you have overlap, but it just wouldn't make sense for some words.

In these instances, Morse coders might create abbreviations with three or more letters. This might be by removing the vowels or just having an arrangement that is recognizable like "ANT" for "antenna" or "BTR" for "better."

Look familiar texters? The texting language has been around for a long time. Now it is time to jump into the abbreviations.

A-G Morse Code Abbreviations

If you need to know the shorthand code for "about" or "message," then this is your list. Just follow the alphabetical order to find what you are looking for.

ABT - About
ADEE - Addressee
ADR - Address
AGN - Again
ANT - Antenna
BCI - Broadcast interference
BCL - Broadcast listener
BCNU - Be seeing you
BTR - Better
BUG - Semi-automatic key

CFM - Confirm; I confirm
CLBK - Callbook
CLD - Called
CLG - Calling
CNT - Can't
CONDX - Conditions
CKT - Circuit
CUL - See you later
CUM - Come
DIFF - Difference
DLD - Delivered
DLVD - Delivered
FER - For
GND - Ground
GUD - Good
GESS - Guess
GVG - Giving

H-R Morse Code Abbreviations

I-
Almost there! Not only will you find some technical codes like "received" and "radio frequency interference," but you will also find fun code abbreviations like "poor operator."

HPE - Hope
IMI - Repeat; say again
INFO - Info
LID - A poor operator
LNG - Long
LTR - Later; letter
LVG - Leaving
MILL - Typewriter
MSG - Message; prefix to radiogram
NCS - Net control station
NIL - Nothing; I have nothing for you

OPR - Operator
PBL - Preamble
PKG - Package
PSE - Please
PWR - Power
RCD - Received
RCVR - Receiver
REF - Refer to; referring to; reference
RFI - Radio frequency interference
RIG - Station equipment
RPT - Repeat, report
RTTY - Radio teletype
RST - Readability, strength, tone

S-X Morse Code Abbreviations

You're now reaching the end of your Morse code abbreviation fun. Find everything that you'll need from "signal" to talking about your "wife" here.

SASE - Self-addressed, stamped envelope
SED - Said
SEZ - Says
SGD - Signed
SIG - Signature; signal
SINE - Operator's personal initials or nickname
SKED - Schedule
SRI - Sorry
SSB - Single sideband
STN - Station
SUM - Some
SVC - Service; prefix to service message
TFC - Traffic
TMW - Tomorrow
TNX - Thanks

TRIX - Tricks
TTS - That is
TVI - Television interference
TXT - Text
UR - Your; you're
URS - Yours
VFB - Very fun business
VFO - Variable frequency oscillator
WDS - Words
WID - With
WKD - Worked
WKG - Working
WPM - Words per minute
WRD - Word
WUD - Would
XCVR - Transceiver
XMTR - Transmitter
XTAL - Crystal
XYL - Wife

Morse Code Prosign Abbreviations

The word "prosigns" is an abbreviation itself; it's short for "procedural signals." These procedural signals go back to the beginnings of Morse code creation and are basic procedures that you should use, for example, to send messages or to sign off.
Standard prosign abbreviations include:
AR - End of message
AS - Stand by
BK - Invite receiving station to transmit
BT - Pause; break for text
KA - Beginning of message
KN - End of the transmission
CL - Going off the air (clear)
CQ - Calling any amateur radio station

K - Go, invite any station to transmit
KN - Go only, invite a specific station to transmit
R - All received OK
SK - End of contact (sent before call)
VE - Understood