

# Communicating with Other Hams

## Contact Basics: Good Amateur Practices

### Q-Signals

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Abbr.	Questions
QRG	Your exact frequency (or that of _____) is _____ kHz. Will you tell me my exact frequency (or that of _____)?
QRL	I am busy (or I am busy with _____). Are you busy? Usually used to see if a frequency is busy.
QRM	Your transmission is being interfered with _____. (1. Nil; 2. Slightly; 3. Moderately; 4. Severely; 5. Extremely.) Is my transmission being interfered with?
QRN	I am troubled by static _____. (1 to 5 as under QRM.) Are you troubled by static?
QRO	Increase power. Shall I increase power?
QRP	Decrease power. Shall I decrease power?
QRQ	Send faster (_____ wpm). Shall I send faster?
QRS	Send more slowly (_____ wpm). Shall I send more slowly?
QRT	Stop sending. Shall I stop sending?
QRU	I have nothing for you. Have you anything for me?
QRV	I am ready. Are you ready?
QRX	I will call you again at _____ hours (on _____ kHz). When will you call me again? Minutes are usually implied rather than hours.
QRZ	You are being called by _____ (on _____ kHz). Who is calling me?
QSB	Your signals are fading. Are my signals fading?
QSK	I can hear you between signals; break in on my transmission. Can you hear me between your signals and if so can I break in on your transmission?
QSL	I am acknowledging receipt. Can you acknowledge receipt (of a message or transmission)?
QSO	I can communicate with _____ direct (or relay through _____). Can you communicate with _____ direct or by relay?
QSP	I will relay to _____. Will you relay to _____?
QST	General call preceding a message addressed to all amateurs and ARRL members. This is in effect "CQ ARRL."
QSX	I am listening to _____ on _____ kHz. Will you listen to _____ on _____ kHz?
QSY	Change to transmission on another frequency (or on _____ kHz). Shall I change to transmission on another frequency (or on _____ kHz)?
QTC	I have _____ messages for you (or for _____). How many messages have you to send?
QTH <sup>C</sup>	My location is _____. What is your location?
QTR	The time is _____. What is the correct time?

Q-signals are a system of radio shorthand as old as wireless and developed from even older telegraphy codes. Q-signals are a set of abbreviations for common information that save time and allow communication between operators who don't speak a common language. Modern ham radio uses them extensively. The table below lists the most common Q-signals used by hams. While Q-signals were developed for use by Morse operators, their use is common on phone, as well. You will often hear, "QRZed?" as someone asks "Who is calling me?" or "I'm getting a little QRM" from an operator receiving some interference or "Let's QSY to 146.55" as two operators change from a repeater frequency to a nearby simplex communications frequency.

### ITU Phonetic Alphabet

Letter	Word	Pronunciation
A	Alfa	AL FAH

B	Bravo	<b>BRAH</b> VOH
C	Charlie	<b>CHAR</b> LEE
D	Delta	<b>DELL</b> TAH
E	Echo	<b>ECK</b> OH
F	Foxtrot	<b>FOKS</b> TROT
G	Golf	GOLF
H	Hotel	HOH <b>TELL</b>
I	India	<b>IN</b> DEE AH
J	Juliet	<b>JEW</b> LEE ETT
K	Kilo	<b>KEY</b> LOH
L	Lima	<b>LEE</b> MAH
M	Mike	MIKE
N	November	NO <b>VEM</b> BER
O	Oscar	<b>OSS</b> CAH
P	Papa	PAH <b>PAH</b>
Q	Quebec	KEH <b>BECK</b>
R	Romeo	<b>ROW</b> ME OH
S	Sierra	SEE <b>AIR</b> RAH
T	Tango	TANG GO
U	Uniform	<b>YOU</b> NEE FORM
V	Victor	<b>VIK</b> TAH
W	Whiskey	<b>WISS</b> KEY
X	X-Ray	<b>ECKS</b> RAY
Y	Yankee	<b>YANG</b> KEY
Z	Zulu	<b>ZOO</b> LOO

**Note:** The **boldfaced** syllables are emphasized. The pronunciations shown in this table were designed for those who speak any of the international languages. The pronunciations given for “Oscar” and “Victor” may seem awkward to English-speaking people in the US.

These Q signals are the ones used most often on the air. (Q abbreviations take the form of questions only when they are sent followed by a question mark.)