



GOT JARGON? MAKING THE MOST OF Q-SIGNALS AND PROSIGNS

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WHAT DID HE SAY?

- Ham radio jargon can be confusing at first. There is a ton to sort through and learn.
- Even veteran hams can get lost!
- We will cover some common Q-signals, prosigns, terminology, and “ham speak”
- There WILL be a quiz at the end (for fun)!





WHY LEARN THIS STUFF?

- Operating efficiency
- Know good standard operating practices
- Common language – promotes understanding and conversation
- Shows you're an accomplished, knowledgeable operator
- Don't be a "LID"! (What's a LID?)



WHAT ARE Q-SIGNALS?

- Standardized three-letter message encodings, also known as a brevity code
- Start with the letter "Q"
- Initially developed for commercial radiotelegraph communication, and later adopted by other radio services, especially amateur radio
- Have provided a universal language among hams who otherwise don't share a common language



WHAT ARE Q-SIGNALS?

- Q-Signals take the form of questions when sent followed by a question mark.
- For example, the message "QRP?" means "Shall I decrease transmitter power?"
 - A reply of "QRP" means "Yes, decrease your transmitter power", whereas an unprompted statement "QRP" means "Please decrease your transmitter power".
- QN__: The ARRL has also developed its own special codes for message handling in traffic nets



COMMON Q-SIGNALS

- QRL: I am busy (or I am busy with...). Please do not interfere
- QRM: Interference from other stations.
- QRN: Interference from static, lightning crashes, nearby plasma TV's, etc.
- QRO: High-power, often 1,000-1,500 watts (1,500 is the legal limit).
- QRP: Low-power, usually under 5 watts.
- QRS: Please send more slowly



MORE COMMON Q-SIGNALS

- QRT: Stop sending (or leaving the air/turning radio off)
- QRZ: Who is calling me? (or you are being called by...)
- QSB: Your signals are fading
- QSL: I acknowledge/confirm receipt
- QSO: A two-way communication between two or more radio stations.
- QTH: The geographical location of a radio station. For instance, my QTH is Huntsville, AL.



WHAT ARE PROSIGNS & ACRONYMS?

- Prosigns or procedural codes are special unique dot/dash sequence symbols (e.g. • — • —•) that have particular functions
- Prosigns do not represent alpha-numeric or punctuation text characters.
- Certain acronyms have evolved over the years as a form of shorthand for a word(s), such as CUL for "see you later".



PROSIGNS AND ACRONYMS

<u>AR</u>	End of message (equivalent to "over" on voice)
<u>BT</u>	New paragraph, pause/thinking
<u>KN</u>	Exclusive "Over" (only the station/state/country/etc. I asked for)
<u>SK</u>	End of contact (<u>S</u> ilent <u>K</u> ey)
K	Go (invitation to any station transmit)
R	All received correctly (equivalent to "roger")
CQ	Calling anyone



ACRONYMS

AGN	Again
ANT	Antenna
BK	Back, or Break
BURO	QSL Bureau
C	Yes, Correct, Affirmative
CUL	See You Later
DE	“From”
ES	CW for “and” (from landline ‘&’ character)



MORE ACRONYMS

FB	Fine Business
FD	Field Day
FER	For
FM	From
GUD	Good
GL	Good Luck
GM	Good Morning
HR	Here



MORE ACRONYMS

HW	How
OP	Operator
PSE	Please
R	Roger (completely understood) not to be confused with “Yes”)
RCVR	Receiver
SKED	Schedule
SRI	Sorry
TNX/TKS	Thanks



MORE ACRONYMS

UR	Your
VY	Very
XMTR	Transmitter

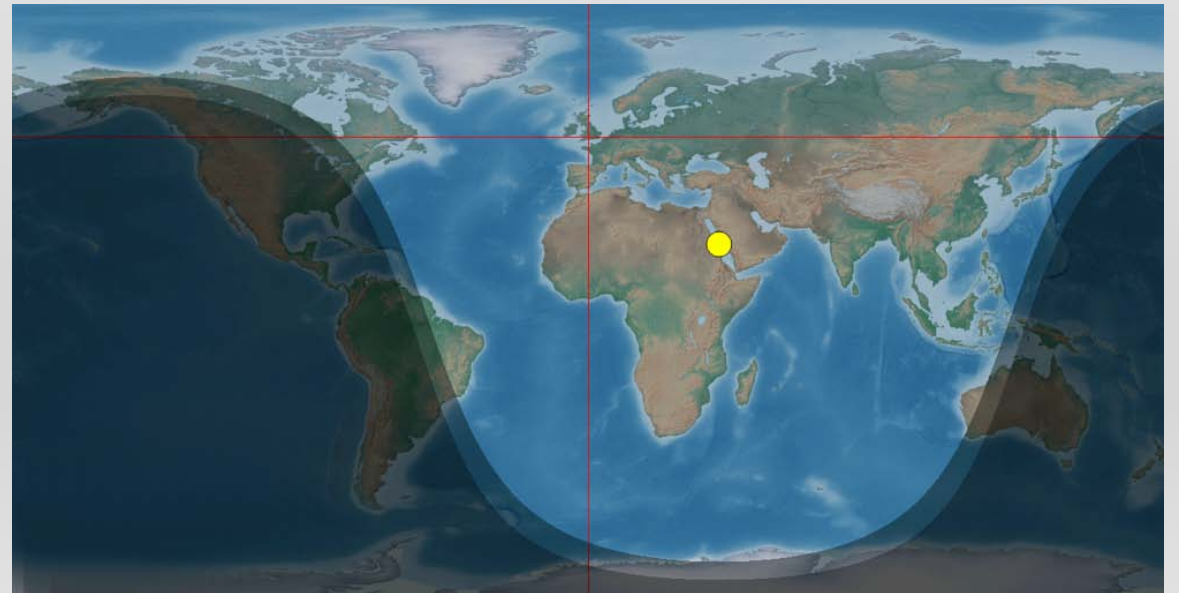
COMMON JARGON

- Barefoot: Operating without an amplifier (e.g. 5, 10, 100 watts)
- Boatanchor: Old, usually big and heavy radio
- Bug: Semi-automatic paddle style code key
- Cans: Headphones
- Chirp: A morse signal with a varying tone
- Cloud Warmer: Antenna that radiates straight up or at very high angle



MORE COMMON JARGON

- DX: Station very far away
- Elmer: An experienced ham helping a newcomer
- FIST: The unique sound characterizes a person's CW
- Grayline: The boundary between daylight and darkness



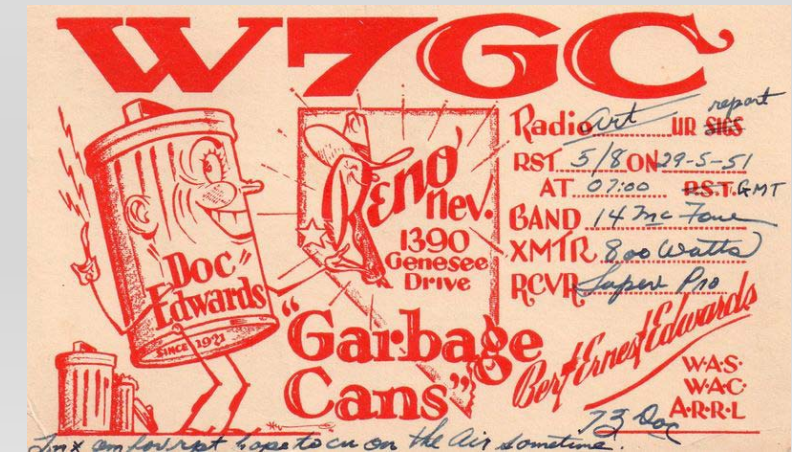


MORE COMMON JARGON

- Green Stamp: Dollar bill included for postage, etc.
- Glass Arm: Professional telegrapher's version of "Tennis Elbow"
- Handle: An operators name. ("Personal" is bad form)
- Harmonic: Child of a ham
- Hollow State: Vacuum tube equipment
- LID: A ham with lousy behavior or poor technique

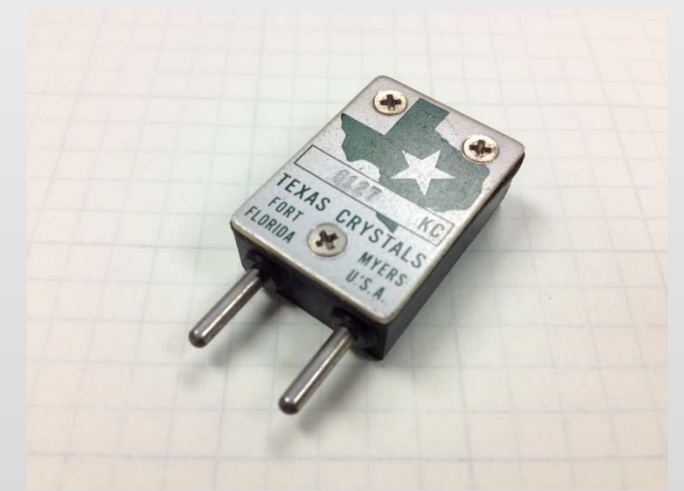
MORE COMMON JARGON

- Magic Band: The 6 meter band (50-54 Mhz)
- Old Man (OM): Any male ham (regardless of age), husband
- OSCAR: Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio
- Pile-up: Lots of stations calling one station at the same time
- Pirate: Someone stealing or making up a call sign; pretending to be rare DX
- QSL: Paper card or electronic confirmation of a QSO



MORE COMMON JARGON

- Rag Chew: Chatting, casual conversation
- Rig: Ham radio equipment
- Rock: a quartz crystal for frequency control
- Rover: A station going from location to location, usually in a VHF/UHF contest
- Silent Key (SK): When referring to a ham, it means they died





MORE COMMON JARGON

- Split: Listening on one frequency and transmitting on another
- Spot: Report of a station (often DX) on a certain frequency over the internet or air
- Squelch Tail: Short noise from repeater after end of transmission
- Tail-ending: Transmitting quickly after another transmission (usually bad form)
- Ticket: Amateur Radio License

MORE COMMON JARGON

- Top-Band: The 160 meter band (1.8 – 2.0Mhz)
- Upside Down: In RTTY, your 'mark' and 'space' tones are reversed
- Wallpaper: Awards and certificates
- Wouff-Hong: Instrument of punishment used on LIDs





MORE COMMON JARGON

- XYL: "Ex-Young Lady," a married woman.
(My XYL's name is Monica.)
- YL: "Young Lady," an unmarried woman.
- 73: "Best regards." A friendly way to end a QSO, 73 has a distinctively rhythmic sound when sent in CW. (Note: it's 73, not 73's — "best regards," not "best regardses.")
- 88: Love and Kisses

PHONETIC ALPHABET

A	Alpha (AL fah)	N	November (no VEM ber)
B	Bravo (BRAH voh)	O	Oscar (OSS cah)
C	Charlie (CHAR lee)	P	Papa (pah PAH)
D	Delta (DELL tah)	Q	Quebec (keh BECK)
E	Echo (ECK oh)	R	Romeo (ROW me oh)
F	Foxtrot (FOKS trot)	S	Sierra (see AIR rah)
G	Golf (GOLF)	T	Tango (TANG go)
H	Hotel (hoh TELL)	U	Uniform YOU nee form)
I	India (IN dee ah)	V	Victor (VIK tah)
J	Juliet (JEW lee ETT)	W	Whiskey (WISS key)
K	Kilo (KEY loh)	X	X-ray (ECKS ray)
L	Lima (LEE mah)	Y	Yankee (YANG kee)
M	Mike(MIKE)	Z	Zulu (ZOO loo)

RST SIGNAL REPORTING SYSTEM

R-S-T Numeric Value	Readability R	Strength S	Tone T (cw only)
1	Unreadable	Faint signals, barely perceptible	Sixty cycle a.c or less, very rough and broad
2	Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable	Very weak signals	Very rough a.c., very harsh and broad
3	Readable with considerable difficulty	Weak signals	Rough a.c. tone, rectified but not filtered
4	Readable with practically no difficulty	Fair signals	Rough note, some trace of filtering
5	Perfectly readable	Fairly good signals	Filtered rectified a.c. but strongly ripple-modulated
6	Not used	Good signals	Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
7	Not used	Moderately strong signals	Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
8	Not used	Strong signals	Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
9	Not used	Extremely strong signals	Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

QUIZ

- What does the Q-Signal QRO mean?
 - a. Stand-by
 - b. Interference from another station
 - c. High-power, often 1,000-1,500 watts
 - d. I'll meet you at the hamfest

QUIZ

- What does the prosign AR mean?
 - a. End of message
 - b. End of contact
 - c. Calling anyone
 - d. Over

QUIZ

- What are "Cans"?
 - a. Oil filled dummy loads
 - b. Headphones
 - c. Low-power transmitters built in tuna containers
 - d. Where you put QSL cards that you don't want anymore

QUIZ

- What information is contained in a “spot”?
 - a. Time
 - b. Frequency
 - c. Call sign
 - d. All of the above

QUIZ

- Rover stations constitute a category in what type of contest?
 - a. VHF/UHF
 - b. Field Day
 - c. Digital mode
 - d. Sprints

QUIZ

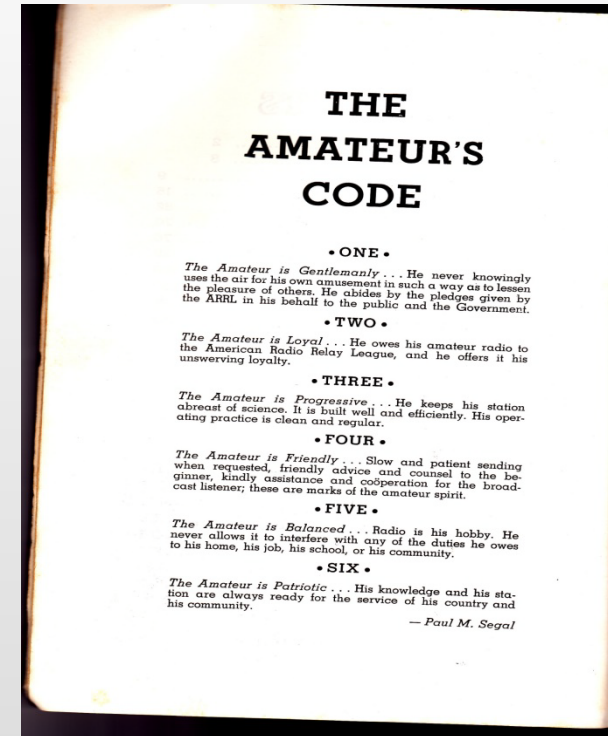
- What is the correct phonetic term for the letter "U" ?

"C" ?

"X" ?

"M" ?

QUIZ



- What is “The Amateur’s Code”?

THE AMATEUR'S CODE

THE RADIO AMATEUR IS -

CONSIDERATE...HE/[SHE] NEVER KNOWINGLY OPERATES IN SUCH A WAY AS TO LESSEN THE PLEASURE OF OTHERS.

LOYAL...HE/[SHE] OFFERS LOYALTY, ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUPPORT TO OTHER AMATEURS, LOCAL CLUBS, THE IARU RADIO SOCIETY IN HIS/[HER] COUNTRY, THROUGH WHICH AMATEUR RADIO IN HIS/[HER] COUNTRY IS REPRESENTED NATIONALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY.

PROGRESSIVE...HE/[SHE] KEEPS HIS/[HER] STATION UP TO DATE. IT IS WELL-BUILT AND EFFICIENT. HIS/[HER] OPERATING PRACTICE IS ABOVE REPROACH.

FRIENDLY...HE/[SHE] OPERATES SLOWLY AND PATIENTLY WHEN REQUESTED; OFFERS FRIENDLY ADVICE AND COUNSEL TO BEGINNERS; KIND ASSISTANCE, COOPERATION AND CONSIDERATION FOR THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS. THESE ARE THE MARKS OF THE AMATEUR SPIRIT.

BALANCED...RADIO IS A HOBBY, NEVER INTERFERING WITH DUTIES OWED TO FAMILY, JOB, SCHOOL OR COMMUNITY.

PATRIOTIC...HIS/[HER] STATION AND SKILLS ARE ALWAYS READY FOR SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY.

- ADAPTED FROM THE ORIGINAL AMATEUR'S CODE, WRITTEN BY PAUL M. SEGAL, W9EEA, IN 1928

OK NW 73 ES 88 ES CUL ES GUD DX
ES HPE CUAGN ON BAND ES BEST
TO UR XYL ES FAMILY GL 73 73 73
SK . .