



## Legend for the lesson

S=Sensory activity (could include drawing, spelling, reading or looking at pictures)

Q=Questions to go with teaching point (choices will be given in brackets after the question for students who need them, but not every student needs to use them)

**BOLD** words are the key words for the teaching point and should be written down on your paper

This lesson is ready for a student at any level, modify as needed!

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## Morse Code Day

One of the most **celebrated** and important **inventions** in the world is the **Morse Code**. Today we thought we would do a small lesson to talk about what morse code is, and why it was so important!

S - Let's warm up and spell CELEBRATE

Q- And what amazing invention are we learning about today? Did we say it was POSTAL or MORSE code?

A man named **Samuel Morse** is the creator of this celebrated invention. He created morse code in the 1830's, to go with another invention of his - the

**telegraph.** The telegraph is a **machine** that can send and receive **messages** through electrical currents.

Q- So we could say that Samuel Morse was the inventor of the Morse code as well as the \_\_\_\_\_ (TELEGRAPH/PRINTER)

Q - The telegraph is a machine that can send and receive messages using what kind of currents? (Did we say they were JELLY or ELECTRIC?)

S - Here is what that machine looks like (show first picture): To send the messages you would tap this lever - Let's practice our pointing by pointing to the lever.

By using a series of electrical pulses or short bursts of **energy** - the telegraph could then make **marks** on a piece of **paper**. But the marks didn't mean anything without a code - hence Morse Code was born!

S - So the electrical currents are short bursts of energy - let's spell ENERGY. Now energy in this case just means the power provided to get the machine to work. Energy is what gives every moving machine its power - including us!

Q - Which word would go best with the word energy: SLEEP/LIFE

Morse Code is a **communication system**. This system represents the alphabet and numbers with a series of dots, dashes or a combination of both.

Q - Morse Code uses a combination of dots and \_\_\_\_\_ (SPOTS/DASHES)

Q- And we learned these dots and dashes are representing both the alphabet and \_\_\_\_\_ (SHAPES/NUMBERS)?

Q- Let me ask you this - have you ever heard of morse code before?  
YES/NO/NOT SURE

Because you can also tap out the **dots and dashes** - Morse Code can be both **seen and heard**.

S- Since Morse code uses dots and dashes - I thought we could take a minute to practice drawing some dots and dashes (Prompt the student as necessary).

Q- If we say that the dots and dashes can be both seen and heard - we know that we will be using our EYES and \_\_\_\_\_(FEET/EARS)

By 1866 a telegraph line was placed from Europe to the United States in order to be able to send Morse Code messages across the **Atlantic Ocean**. Morse code became a key form of communication in the **military** - soldiers could use spotlights to flash the code in the sky to send messages.

S - Morse code became important to the military - let's spell MILITARY

Q- Can you think of a word that would go with military? (Do you think ARMY or SOCCER would be a good word?)

Q - What do you think - from what we have learned so far - does the invention of the Morse Code sound like an important one? YES/NO/MAYBE

Morse Code **isn't used** very often today - it was eventually replaced with the invention of the **telephone**. However, it is still used today by radio operators, the military and even the Boy Scouts.

Q - So if I said that Morse Code isn't used very often today - would you: AGREE or DISAGREE?

Q- We learned that eventually Morse Code and the telegraph were replaced by the \_\_\_\_\_ (RADIO/TELEPHONE)

One of the most well known codes is **SOS** - the international code for distress. This code means **HELP!** These letters were chosen because the code is easy to remember: Three dots, followed by three dashes, followed by three dots.

Q - We learned that the SOS code is 3 dots, 3 dashes, 3 dots - but what does this code mean? Does it mean PILLOW or HELP?

S - Let's take a look at what this code would look like with the dots and dashes (show second picture). Let's try drawing the code for help together - start with the three dots - next we need three dashes - followed by three more dots. (prompt the student as much as needed)

Creative Writing - today let's practice spelling some words from our lesson:

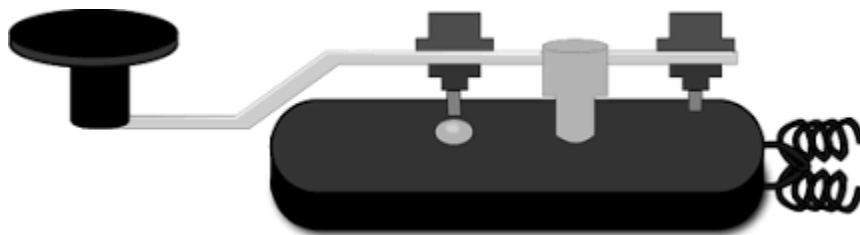
CODE

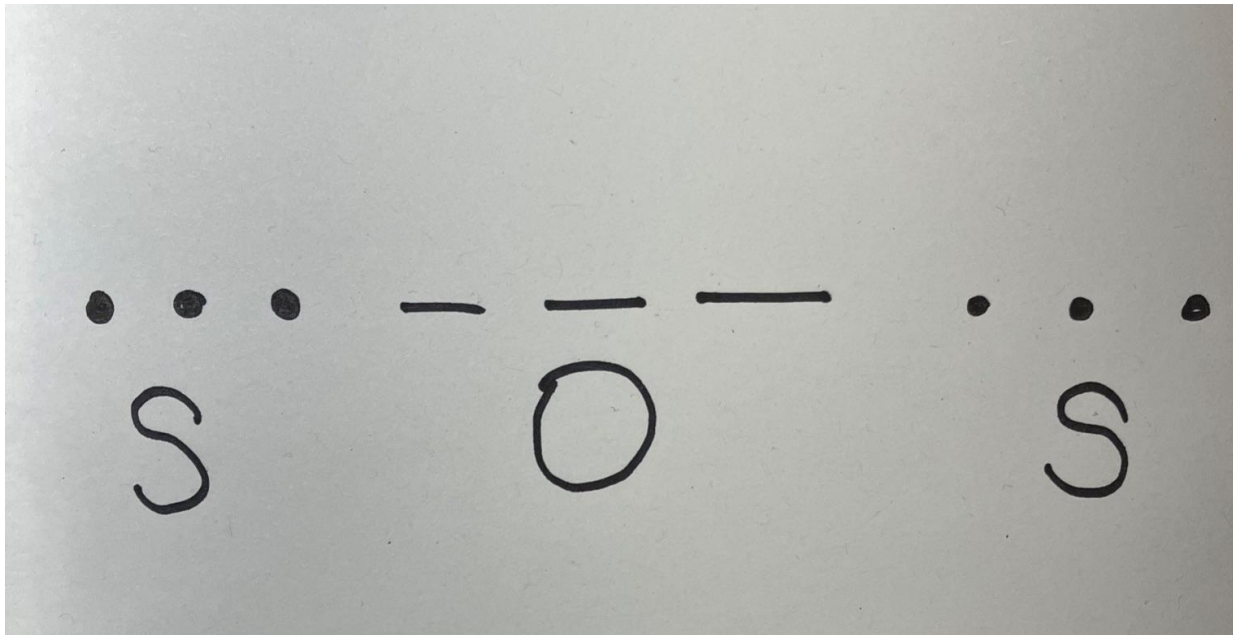
INVENTION

DOTS

DISTRESS

COMMUNICATION





Sources:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Morse-Code>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse\\_code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morse_code)