

YR Ed Moment  
The Phonetic Alphabet

Greetings,

You may have heard people checking in to the NET recently, giving their name and a word for their last name, like Hotel, or Papa, or Zulu. To make clear what letter is used on the radio and to practice the phonetic alphabet, we use the official ITU (International Telecommunications Union) Phonetic Alphabet.

You've probably noticed that it's not always easy to understand what last name initial somebody says when they check in. In an emergency, the Net Control needs to know who is available and where they are. This is why we use the phonetic alphabet for that last name initial so we can distinguish easily between the "Sierras" and the "Foxtrots" or the "Bravos" and the "Deltas". 'S' may be confused with 'F' aurally, but there is only one 'Sierra'. It's helpful to write it out and practicing saying it before checking in.

Knowing the phonetic alphabet is also helpful when exchanging complex information over the radio in an emergency. Phonetically spelling out difficult to understand words helps improve accuracy. And using "sky-writing" helps you go slowly so the person writing it down has time.

Try and learn the Phonetic Alphabet a little at the time. In a pinch, the specific word used is not important, but it's good to use one that is longer than one syllable and that doesn't sound too much like another.

The Phonetic Alphabet along with this Ed Moment will be listed on the EVC website, under  
EMComm > Thursday night net > Learnings from Thursday Night Net

### ITU Phonetics

A - Alpha	H - Hotel	O - Oscar	V - Victor
B - Bravo	I - India	P - Papa	W - Whiskey
C - Charlie	J - Juliet	Q - Quebec	X - Xray
D - Delta	K - Kilo	R - Romeo	Y - Yankee
E - Echo	L - Lima	S - Sierra	Z - Zulu
F - Foxtrot	M - Mike	T - Tango	
G - Golf	N - November	U - Uniform	