

Morse code shorthand & abbreviations

124 entries | Prosigns: no letter gaps | Morse Beacon

CODE / KIND	MORSE	MEANS / EXAMPLE
SK prosign		End of work or contact; signing off. Heard as: 73 <SK>
AS prosign		Wait; a temporary pause. Heard as: <AS>
CT prosign		Starting signal; also written KA. Heard as: <CT>
KA prosign		Starting signal; the same pattern as CT. Heard as: <KA>
HH prosign		Sending error: correct the mistaken group. Heard as: <HH> NAME JO
SN prosign		Understood; also written VE. Heard as: <SN>
VE prosign		Understood; the same pattern as SN. Heard as: <VE>
AR prosign		End of a message or transmission. Heard as: 73 <AR>
BT prosign		Separates sections of a message. Heard as: RST 599 <BT> NAME JO
KN prosign		Invites only the station being called to answer. Heard as: K2ABC <KN>
SOS prosign		Distress signal: three dots, three dashes, three dots, sent together. Heard as: <SOS>
BK prosign		Break: interrupt a transmission. Played here as a joined sign; BK is also sent as separate letters. Heard as: <BK>
CQ calling		General call: any station may answer. Heard as: CQ CQ DE K2ABC K
DE calling		From; introduces the sending station. Heard as: W1AW DE K2ABC
K calling		Invitation to transmit; over. Heard as: K2ABC K
R calling		Transmission received. Heard as: R TNX

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CL calling		Closing the station. Heard as: K2ABC CL
CP calling		Call addressed to two or more named stations. Heard as: CP W1AW K2ABC
CS calling		Call sign; used when asking for identification. Heard as: CS?
RST calling		Readability, signal strength and tone report. Heard as: UR RST 579
5NN calling		Short form of 599, substituting N for each 9. Heard as: 5NN TU
73 number		Best regards; a friendly farewell. Heard as: TNX 73
88 number		Love and kisses; an affectionate farewell. Heard as: 88
33 number		Love sealed with friendship; a farewell used between YL (female) operators. Heard as: 33
599 number		RST report: fully readable, extremely strong, pure tone. Heard as: UR RST 599
TNX abbreviation		Thanks. Heard as: TNX FER QSO
UR abbreviation		Your; sometimes you are. Heard as: UR RST 579
FB abbreviation		Fine business; good or excellent. Heard as: FB OM
OM abbreviation		Old man; familiar address for a male operator. Heard as: GM OM
YL abbreviation		Young lady; a female operator. Heard as: TNX YL
XYL abbreviation		Wife, in traditional amateur shorthand. Heard as: XYL IS JO
ES abbreviation		And. Heard as: NAME ES QTH
HR abbreviation		Here. Heard as: QTH HR BOSTON

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HW abbreviation	•••• • — —	How; often asks how the signal is received. Heard as: HW CPY?
AGN abbreviation	• — — — • — •	Again. Heard as: PSE AGN
GM abbreviation	— — • — —	Good morning. Heard as: GM OM
GE abbreviation	— — • •	Good evening. Heard as: GE JO
GN abbreviation	— — • — •	Good night. Heard as: GN 73
CUL abbreviation	— • — • • — — — • •	See you later. Heard as: CUL 73
BCNU abbreviation	— • • • — • — • — • • • —	Be seeing you. Heard as: BCNU
ABT abbreviation	• — — • • • —	About. Heard as: ABT 10 W
ANT abbreviation	• — — • —	Antenna. Heard as: ANT DIPOLE
RIG abbreviation	• — • • • — — •	Radio equipment. Heard as: RIG 100 W
PWR abbreviation	• — — • • — — • — •	Power. Heard as: PWR 5 W
SRI abbreviation	• • • • — • •	Sorry. Heard as: SRI QRM
OP abbreviation	— — — — • — — •	Operator. Heard as: OP JO
DX abbreviation	— • • — • • —	Distant station or long-distance contact. Heard as: CQ DX
SKED abbreviation	• • • — • — • — • •	Scheduled contact. Heard as: SKED AT 1800
HI abbreviation	• • • • • •	Laughter in CW conversation. Heard as: HI HI
B4 abbreviation	— • • • • • • —	Before. Heard as: WRKD B4

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GUD abbreviation		Good. Heard as: GUD SIG
HV abbreviation		Have. Heard as: HV QRM
VY abbreviation		Very. Heard as: VY FB
WKD abbreviation		Worked; made contact with. Heard as: WKD B4
FER abbreviation		For. Heard as: TNX FER QSO
MNI abbreviation		Many. Heard as: MNI TNX
WID abbreviation		With. Heard as: WID QRM
TU abbreviation		Thank you. Heard as: TU 73
WX abbreviation		Weather report. Heard as: WX SUNNY
PSE abbreviation		Please. Heard as: PSE QRS
CFM abbreviation		Confirm. Heard as: CFM QTH
AA abbreviation		All after a specified group; asks for a repeat. Heard as: RPT AA NAME
AB abbreviation		All before a specified group; asks for a repeat. Heard as: RPT AB NAME
BN abbreviation		All between two specified groups. Heard as: RPT BN NAME ES QTH
NO abbreviation		No; negative. Heard as: NO
NW abbreviation		Now. Heard as: QRT NW
NIL abbreviation		Nothing to send. Heard as: NIL

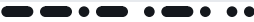
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OK abbreviation		Agreed; correct. Heard as: OK TNX
PBL abbreviation		Preamble of a message. Heard as: RPT PBL
REF abbreviation		Reference to something. Heard as: REF NR 5
RPT abbreviation		Repeat, or I repeat. Heard as: RPT QTH
SIG abbreviation		Signature of a message. Heard as: RPT SIG
TFC abbreviation		Traffic; messages to handle. Heard as: TFC 2
TXT abbreviation		Text of a message. Heard as: RPT TXT
WA abbreviation		Word after a specified group. Heard as: WA NAME
WB abbreviation		Word before a specified group. Heard as: WB QTH
NR abbreviation		Number; introduces a message number. Heard as: NR 12
C abbreviation		Correct; yes. Heard as: C
N abbreviation		No; negative, or no more messages. Heard as: <AR> N
ADR abbreviation		Address. Heard as: RPT ADR
ARL abbreviation		An ARRL numbered radiogram follows. Heard as: ARL FIFTY
CK abbreviation		Check; message word count. Heard as: CK 12
GA abbreviation		Good afternoon; can also mean go ahead in context. Heard as: GA OM
CW abbreviation		Continuous wave; Morse radiotelegraphy. Heard as: CW QSO

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NAME abbreviation		Introduces the operator's name (an ordinary word, not an abbreviation). Heard as: NAME JO
TEST abbreviation		Contest call; invites contest contacts. Heard as: CQ TEST
T abbreviation		Cut number for zero when the context is numerical. Heard as: PWR 1TT
QRA q-code		Station name. QRA? asks for the station name. Heard as: QRA?
QRB q-code		Distance between stations. QRB? asks how far apart they are. Heard as: QRB?
QRG q-code		Exact frequency. QRG? asks for a frequency measurement. Heard as: QRG?
QRH q-code		Frequency varies. QRH? asks whether the frequency is drifting. Heard as: QRH?
QRI q-code		Tone quality. QRI? asks for a tone report. Heard as: QRI?
QRK q-code		Signal intelligibility. QRK? asks how readable the signal is. Heard as: QRK?
QRL q-code		Busy; this frequency is in use. QRL? asks whether the station is busy. Heard as: QRL?
QRM q-code		Interference from other transmissions. QRM? asks whether interference is present. Heard as: QRM
QRN q-code		Atmospheric noise or static. QRN? asks whether static is troubling reception. Heard as: QRN
QRO q-code		Increase power. QRO? asks whether to increase transmitter power. Heard as: QRO
QRP q-code		Decrease power. QRP? asks whether to reduce transmitter power; amateurs also use QRP for low-power operation. Heard as: QRP
QRQ q-code		Send faster. QRQ? asks whether to increase sending speed. Heard as: QRQ
QRS q-code		Send slower. QRS? asks whether to reduce sending speed. Heard as: PSE QRS

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QRT q-code		Stop transmitting. QRT? asks whether to stop. Heard as: QRT NW
QRU q-code		Nothing for you. QRU? asks whether there is anything for the calling station. Heard as: QRU?
QRV q-code		Ready. QRV? asks whether the other station is ready. Heard as: QRV?
QRW q-code		Tell another station it is being called. QRW? asks whether to pass that notice. Heard as: QRW?
QRX q-code		Will call again at a given time. QRX? asks when the next call will be. Heard as: QRX 1800
QRZ q-code		Being called by a station. QRZ? asks who is calling. Heard as: QRZ?
QSA q-code		Signal strength. QSA? requests a strength report on the 1-5 scale. Heard as: QSA?
QSB q-code		Signal is fading. QSB? asks whether fading is occurring. Heard as: QSB
QSD q-code		Keying is faulty. QSD? asks whether the keying is defective. Heard as: QSD?
QSG q-code		Send several messages together. QSG? asks how many to send in one batch. Heard as: QSG 2
QSK q-code		Can hear between signals; break-in is possible. QSK? asks whether interruption is possible. Heard as: QSK?
QSL q-code		Acknowledges receipt. QSL? asks for acknowledgement. Heard as: QSL TNX
QSM q-code		Repeat the last transmission. QSM? asks whether to repeat it. Heard as: QSM?
QSO q-code		Can communicate with another station. QSO? asks whether contact is possible; amateurs also use QSO for a contact. Heard as: TNX FER QSO
QSP q-code		Relay to another station. QSP? asks whether the station can relay. Heard as: QSP?
QSV q-code		Send a series of Vs for adjustment. QSV? asks whether to send them. Heard as: QSV?

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QSW q-code		Will transmit on a specified frequency. QSW? asks whether to use that frequency. Heard as: QSW?
QSX q-code		Listening on a specified frequency. QSX? asks whether the station will listen there. Heard as: QSX?
QSY q-code		Change frequency. QSY? asks whether to move to another frequency. Heard as: QSY?
QSZ q-code		Send each group more than once. QSZ? asks whether repeats are wanted. Heard as: QSZ 2
QTA q-code		Cancel a specified message. QTA? asks whether to cancel it. Heard as: QTA NR 12
QTC q-code		Number of messages waiting. QTC? asks how many messages there are. Heard as: QTC 2
QTH q-code		Location. QTH? asks where the station is. Heard as: QTH BOSTON
QTR q-code		Time. QTR? asks for the correct time. Heard as: QTR?

Sources and use

ITU-R M.1172, Q signals and abbreviations

<https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.1172-0-199510-I/en>

ITU-R M.1677-1, International Morse

<https://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-M.1677-1-200910-I/>

ARRL/IARU, Ethics and Operating Procedures, sections II.9.6 and II.9.28

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/DXCC/Eth-operating-EN-ARRL-CORR-JAN-2011.pdf>

ARRL, Amateur Radio Operating Procedures, Unit 5

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/LabHandbook/RLH%20Unit%205.pdf>

ARRL, Sending Messages on CW, 3.6

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/MPG304A.pdf>

ARRL, Communications Procedures

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/fsd220.pdf>

WNA operating manual, Appendix F (ARRL)

<https://www.arrl.org/files/media/Group/WNAManual12.pdf>

ARRL, List of Abbreviations

https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Abbrev_AWE.pdf

ARRL, Contest Glossary: cut numbers

<https://www.arrl.org/contest-glossary>

Examples illustrate usage; they are not recorded contacts.

BK is played as a joined sign in this tool; separate B K is also used.

Definitions depend on context. Check the source linked beside each online row.

Reviewed 2026-10-26. <https://morsebeacon.com/morse-code-meaning/abbreviations/>