

TELEGRAPH AND RADIOTELEGRAPH CODES

AN

INTRODUCTION

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The Morse alphabet, which is employed to create the sounds used in landline telegraphy in Canada and the United States, is composed entirely of linear characters formed of dots and dashes, and by combinations of the two. The letters c, o, r, y, and z, and the symbol "&" "%", ";", and others are composed of dots and spaces. There are no spaces in any of the letters composed of dashes. The alphabet is as follows:

A . _	O . . .
B _ . . .	P
C	Q . . _ .
D _ . .	R
E .	S . . .
F . - .	T _
G _ _ .	U . . _
H	V . . . _
I . .	W . _ _
J _ . _ .	X . _ . .
K _ . _	Y
L _ _ _ [long dash]	Z
M _ _	
N _ .	

The figures are as follows:

1 . _ _ .	6
2 . . _ . .	7 - - . . .
3 . . . _ .	8 _
4 _	9 _ . . _
5 _ _ _	0 _ _ _ _ [very long dash]

The difference between the Morse and Continental (International) codes are shown in the following list.

Morse.	Continental.
C	_ . _ .
F . _ .	. . _ .
J _ . .	. _ _ _
L _ _ [long dash]	. _ . .
O . . .	_ _ _

P _ _ .
Q . . _ .	_ _ . _
R _ .
X . _ . .	_ . . _
Y	_ . _ _
Z	_ _ . .
Numerals	
1 . _ _ .	. _ _ _ _
2 . . _ _ _ _
3 . . . _ _ _
5 _ _ _
6	_
7 _ _ . .	_ _ . . .
8 _	_ _ _ . .
9 _	_ _ _ . .
0 _____ [very long dash]	_ _ _ _ _

The punctuation marks used as a part of the Morse system are as follows:

Comma . _ .	
Question Mark _ . . _ .	
Capital Letter _ . .	
Small Letter . . _ _ _	
Shilling Mark . . _ _ _	
Pounds Sterling _____	
Exclamation Point _ _ _ .	
Colon _ . _ . .	
Dollar Sign _ . .	
Colon Dash _ . _	
Not Code . _ _ _ .	
Parenthesis (open)	
. (close)	
Apostrophe . . _ . . _ . .	
Quotation Marks . . _ . _ . (Open)	
. . . _ . _ . . (Close)	
Quotation Marks Within A Quotation . . _ . . _ . . (Open)	
. . . _ . _ . . (Close)	
Brackets _ _ . .	
Dash _ . . . _ . .	
Hyphen _ . .	
Semicolon	
Period . . _ _ . .	
Paragraph Mark _____	
Percent	
And Symbol (&)	

The punctuation marks in the Continental (International) Code are as follows:

Period . _ . _ . _
Colon _ _ _
Semicolon _ . _ . _ .
Exclamation (None)
Comma _ _ . . _ _
Question Mark . . _ _ . .
Hyphen _ _
Apostrophe . _ _ _ . .

Parenthesis _ . _ _ . (Open)
_ . _ _ . _ (Close)
Quotation Mark . _ . . _ . (Open/Close)

American Morse ("The Mother Tongue" to landline telegraphers) was designed to be most efficient when sending data in the English language. The Continental Code was developed by the Germans and is thus optimized for the German language. American Morse has the advantage of being 15 to 20 percent faster than Continental Code for the same data, when that data is in English, but has the disadvantage that it is harder to "read" on long undersea cable runs, and over the radio. It is also interesting to note that Morse has a far "richer" set of punctuation marks, which makes it much better for sending "press" copy.

Morse however, is no longer in use except by hobbyists with dial-up-morse capability and for scientific and historic demonstrations.

The Continental Code however, is still in use daily, all over the world, to transmit ship-to-shore communications, aircraft flight and reporting data (Russia), and by amateur radio operators everywhere. In addition, aircraft navigational aids, pager transmitters, and most unattended transmitters also identify themselves using the Continental Code.

Oh, did we say that the continental Code is most frequently referred to as International Code.

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