

Phonetic Alphabet

An important tool in communicating over the radio waves while engaged in military or NASA operations is the phonetic alphabet. Since some letters or numbers may sound similar to other letters or numbers, the phonetic alphabet is used by many people who rely on verbal communication to help them better understand each other and more effectively perform their jobs (e.g. Military personnel, astronauts, police officers, fire fighters).

In addition, all airplanes must have an identification code. This code is much like an automobile license tag. Each code starts with a letter to identify its country.

Using the phonetic alphabet chart below, make your own identification code. Start with N for United States of America, then write the two digit month-number and two digit day-number for the date of your birth (don't indicate the year, and put zero in front of a single digit day or month). For example, May 7 would read 0507 and November 23 would read 1123. Then add your first and last initials. For example, the identification code for Orville Wright, whose birthday was August 19, would be N0819OW. He would be identified orally on the radio as: "November 0 8 1 9 Oscar Whiskey."

Write your identification code below. Maybe your teacher would agree to post class test scores by phonetic alphabet code on the bulletin board at school. How would you identify yourself orally?

PHONETIC ALPHABET

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