



Radio Etiquette

Get familiar with the etiquette of two-way radio communication. Learn two-way radio lingo. To make radio communications go more smoothly, over the years, certain rules or etiquette have been established. Below we have outlined the basic etiquette a radio user should understand. It will help improve your overall experience when using your radio.

Basic Radio Etiquette Rules

- The **international radio language is English**, except in cases where you are licensed to speak in some other language.
- When using a two-way radio you **cannot speak and listen at the same time**, as you can with a phone.
- **Don't interrupt** if you hear other people talking. Wait until their conversation is finished unless it is an emergency. If it is an emergency, inform the other parties that you have an urgent emergency message (see "Emergency Calls" below).
- Do not respond if you aren't sure the call is for you. Wait until you hear your call sign to respond.
- **Never transmit sensitive, confidential, financial or military information.** Unless you are certain your conversations are secured with the proper level of encryption for the level of sensitivity, assume your conversations can be heard by others.
- Perform radio checks to ensure your radio is in good working condition.
- Ensure the battery is charged and the power is on.
- Keep the volume high enough to be able to hear calls.
- Regularly make radio checks to make sure everything is working and that you are still in range to receive signals.
- Memorize call signs and locations of persons and radio stations you communicate with regularly.
- In radio communication, you are not called by your name. Everybody has their own unique call sign.
- Think before you speak.
- Decide what you are going say and to whom it is meant for.
- Make your conversations as concise, precise, and clear as possible.
- Avoid long and complicated sentences. If your message is long, divide it into separate shorter messages.
- Do not use abbreviations unless they are well understood by your group.

4 Golden Rules of Radio Communications

1. **Clarity** Your voice should be clear. Speak a little slower than normal. Speak in a normal tone.
2. **Simplicity** Keep your message simple enough for intended listeners to understand.
3. **Brevity** Be precise and to the point.
4. **Security** Do not transmit confidential information unless you know the proper security technology is in place. Remember, frequencies are shared. You do not have exclusive use of the frequency.

Emergency Calls

If you have an emergency message and need to interrupt others' conversations:

- Wait and listen until you hear "Over".
- Press PTT and say "BREAK, BREAK, BREAK, *your call sign*, I have an emergency message for (*recipient's call sign*), Do you copy, Over".

Speaking The Language

General Terms

Meaning

Radio Check

What is my signal strength? Can you hear me?

Go Ahead

You are ready to receive the transmission.

Stand-by

You acknowledge the other party, but I am unable to respond immediately.

Roger

Message received and understood.

Negative

Same as "No".

Affirmative

Same as "Yes".

Say Again

Re-transmit your message.

Over

Your message is finished.

Out or Clear

All conversation is finished, the channel is clear for others to use.

Break, Break, Break

You are interrupting in the middle of communication because you have an Emergency.

Read You Loud & Clear

Response to "Radio Check" means your transmission is good. Can also use "Read you 5-by-5".

Come In

You are asking the other party to acknowledge they hear you.

Copy

You understand what was said.

Wilco

Means "I will comply".

Repeat

Used before you repeat something. Example "I require 9-5, repeat 9-5 gallons of diesel fuel. Over"

Memorize the Phonetic Alphabet

- It is almost certain you will have to use it in your conversations.
- You will often be required to spell a certain word or name in your radio conversations to make sure you are understood.
- Using the phonetic equivalents instead of letters will make sure letters such as 'F' are not misinterpreted as 'S', 'T' as 'C', or 'M' as 'N'.

International phonetics used for the alphabet:

A - ALPHA	H - HOTEL	O - OSCAR	V - VICTOR
B - BRAVO	I - INDIA	P - PAPA	X - X-RAY
C - CHARLIE	J - JULIET	Q - QUEBEC	W - WHISKEY
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	

More information can be found on our web site at

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