

EVOLUTION OF THE PHONETIC ALPHABET

Radio communication by voice can be very frustrating under noisy conditions and more so if there is an emergency and details are important. The phonetic alphabet was developed as a tool to assist with voice communications. The alphabet shown in the 1957 column is the one in use today.

	GENERAL 1929	GENERAL 1947	RCN 1945-1955	NATO/ICAO 1955	NATO/ICAO 1957 >	PRONUNCIATION
A	Able	Adam	Able	Alpha	Alfa	AL FAH
B	Boy	Baker	Baker	Bravo	Bravo	BRAH VOH
C	Cast	Charlie	Charlie	Coca	Charlie	CHAR LEE or SHAR LEE
D	Dog	David	Dog	Delta	Delta	DELL TAH
E	Easy	Edward	Easy	Echo	Echo	ECK OH
F	Fox	Frank	Fox	Foxtrot	Foxtrot	FOKS TROT
G	George	George	George	Golf	Golf	GOLF
H	Have	Harry	How	Hotel	Hotel	HOH TELL
I	Item	Ida	Item	India	India	IN DEE AH
J	Jig	John	Jig	Juliette	Juliette	JEW LEE ETT
K	King	King	King	Kilo	Kilo	KEY LOH
L	Love	Lewis	Love	Lima	Lima	LEE MAH
M	Mike	Mary	Mike	Metro	Mike	MIKE
N	Nan	Nancy	Nan	Nectar	November	NO VEM BER
O	Oboe	Otto	Oboe	Oscar	Oscar	OSS CAH
P	Pup	Peter	Peter	Papa	Papa	PAH PAH
Q	Quack	Queen	Queen	Quebec	Quebec	KEH BECK
R	Rot	Robert	Roger	Romeo	Romeo	ROW ME OH
S	Sail	Susan	Sugar	Sierra	Sierra	SEE AIR RAH
T	Tare	Thomas	Tare	Tango	Tango	TANG OH
U	Unit	Union	Uncle	Uniform	Uniform	YOU NEE FORM or OO NEE FORM
V	Vice	Victor	Victor	Victor	Victor	VIK TAH
W	Watch	William	William	Whiskey	Whiskey	WISS KEY
X	Xray	Xray	Xray	Xtra	Xray	ECKS RAY
Y	Yoke	Young	Yoke	Yankee	Yankee	YANG KEY
Z	Zed	Zebra	Zebra	Zulu	Zulu	ZOO LOO