



History from Home

# MORSE CODE COMMUNICATION



@NMMCKIDS  
@USMCMUSEUM



18900 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Triangle, VA 22172  
www.usmcmuseum.com | 703-784-4464

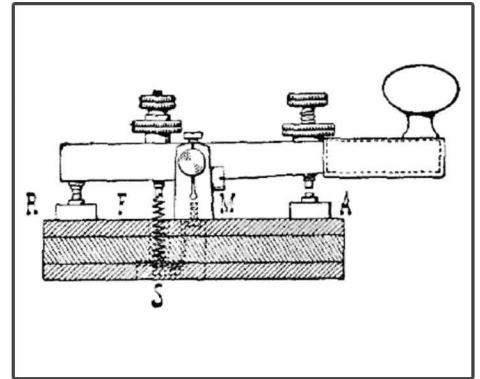
# Morse Code

Morse code is a system of sending messages by a series of on-off tones, lights, or clicks. Each letter is represented by a unique series of short dots (dits) and longer dashes (dahs). The duration of a dash is three times the length of a dot. Each word is separated by silence in the equivalent of one dash. Samuel Morse developed his code in 1837 after seeing the optical, or semaphore telegraph, in Europe. Morse code transmitted through telegraph stations occurred almost instantly.

During WWI, electric telegraphs using Morse code were used throughout the war, on both sides. They were used to communicate from the front line trenches to the officers, and from nation to nation via telegraph lines throughout Europe and underwater cables across the Atlantic.

## Materials:

- Morse code instruction and answer sheet
- Morse code listening station YouTube video
- Morse code alphabet sheet



## Directions:

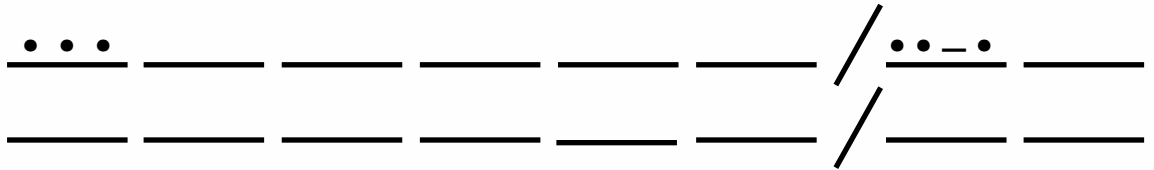
1. Familiarize yourself with the two different types of sounds used in the Morse code alphabet, dits (shorter sounds) and dahs (longer sounds). They are represented by dots and long dashes respectively.
2. Listen to the series of (dits) and (dahs) on our “listening station” video on YouTube [HERE](#). Write down the missing pieces on your answer sheet. Use the Morse code alphabet sheet on the following page to finish the translation and provide the answer.

## Answers:

Message 1:

Morse code:

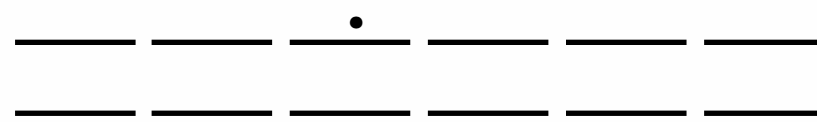
Message:



Message 2:

Morse code:

Message:



Try Your Own!

Morse code:

Message:

# Morse Code Alphabet

---

## International Morse Code

1. The length of a dot is one unit.
2. A dash is three units.
3. The space between parts of the same letter is one unit.
4. The space between letters is three units.
5. The space between words is seven units.

A ● ■  
B ■ ● ● ●  
C ■ ● ■ ●  
D ■ ● ●  
E ●  
F ● ● ■ ●  
G ■ ■ ●  
H ● ● ● ●  
I ● ●  
J ● ■ ■ ■  
K ■ ● ■  
L ● ■ ● ●  
M ■ ■  
N ■ ●  
O ■ ■ ■  
P ● ■ ■ ●  
Q ■ ■ ● ■  
R ● ■ ●  
S ● ● ●  
T ■

U ● ● ■  
V ● ● ● ■  
W ● ■ ■  
X ■ ● ● ■  
Y ■ ● ■ ■  
Z ■ ■ ● ●

1 ● ■ ■ ■ ■  
2 ● ● ■ ■ ■  
3 ● ● ● ■ ■  
4 ● ● ● ● ■  
5 ● ● ● ● ●  
6 ■ ● ● ● ●  
7 ■ ■ ● ● ●  
8 ■ ■ ■ ● ●  
9 ■ ■ ■ ■ ●  
0 ■ ■ ■ ■ ■