

# Send a Message with Morse Code

One of the most important code systems invented is the internationally-recognized Morse code, which matches dots and dashes to letters of the alphabet.

Although Samuel F. B. Morse had patented the telegraph in 1837, it was not until 1844 that the government allocated the money to develop this revolutionary form of communication. After the telegraph system was set up, messages that had taken days or even weeks to deliver were now completed in a matter of minutes! Messages were sent through wires by tapping on keys, but you might find it easier to distinguish dots and dashes by using flashlight signals. **Try sending a message to someone using the secret code below!**

During World War I and II, secret messages were communicated using Morse Code. Morse Code is a system of electronic communication. It uses dots, dashes, and spaces to represent letters, punctuation, and numbers. The symbols are arranged to spell out a message. A machine called a telegraph converts the symbols into electrical signals and sends them across a wire to their destination. The signals are then converted back into the message by the telegraph.

The traditional voiced codes are "dit" for the short dot and "dah" for the long dash. Can you voice some letters of the alphabet using 'dit's and 'dah's'?

## The Morse Code Alphabet

A	● —	U	● ● —
B	— ● ● ●	V	● ● ● —
C	— ● — ●	W	● — —
D	— ● ●	X	— ● ● —
E	●	Y	— ● — —
F	● ● — ●	Z	— — ● ●
G	— — ●		
H	● ● ● ●		
I	● ●		
J	● — — —		
K	— ● —	1	● — — —
L	● — ● ●	2	● ● — —
M	— —	3	● ● ● —
N	— ●	4	● ● ● ● —
O	— — —	5	● ● ● ● ●
P	● — — ●	6	— ● ● ● ●
Q	— — ● —	7	— — ● ● ●
R	● — ●	8	— — — ● ●
S	● ● ●	9	— — — — ●
T	—	0	— — — — —