

Radio Communication

Effective radio communication is a critical link in the ATC system. Being able to communicate in a clear and concise manner is a necessary skill that professional pilots must develop. Radio contact should be kept brief and controllers must understand what you want to do before they can properly carry out their control duties. Using the right phraseology enhances safety; however, since concise phraseology may not always be adequate, use whatever words are necessary to get your message across. If you do end up stumbling on a radio call, remain calm, take a deep breath and try again. Remember, ATC is there to help ensure you get to your destination safely!

Key Radio Techniques

- **Listen to LiveATC!** If you are struggling with communications LiveATC is a great resource to hear live ATC frequencies.
- **Listen first!** Pause, listen and confirm the frequency is clear before you transmit.
- **Write it down!** Long clearances or important routing instructions are helpful to write down.
- **Aviate, Navigate, Communicate!** Always prioritize controlling your aircraft before speaking on the radio.
- **Stay one step ahead!** Expect certain calls and anticipate the instructions/information ATC might give.
- **Keep current!** Read the AIM and stay informed.
- **Brevity is important!** Don't say too much, keep it short and brief.

Phonetic Alphabet/Morse Code

Character	Morse Code	Telephony	Phonic (Pronunciation)
A	• -	Alfa	(AL-FAH)
B	- •••	Bravo	(BRAH-VOH)
C	- • - •	Charlie	(CHAR-LEE) or (SHAR-LEE)
D	- ••	Delta	(DELL-TAH)
E	•	Echo	(ECK-OH)
F	•• - •	Foxtrot	(FOKS-TROT)
G	- - •	Golf	(GOLF)
H	••••	Hotel	(HOH-TEL)
I	••	India	(IN-DEE-AH)
J	• - - -	Juliett	(JEW-LEE-ETT)
K	- • -	Kilo	(KEY-LOH)
L	• - ••	Lima	(LEE-MAH)
M	- -	Mike	(MIKE)
N	- •	November	(NO-VEM-BER)
O	- - -	Oscar	(OSS-CAH)
P	• - - •	Papa	(PAH-PAH)
Q	- - - •	Quebec	(KEH-BECK)
R	• - •	Romeo	(ROW-ME-OH)
S	•••	Sierra	(SEE-AIR-RAH)
T	-	Tango	(TANG-GO)
U	••• -	Uniform	(YOU-NEE-FORM) or (OO-NEE-FORM)
V	•••• -	Victor	(VIK-TAH)
W	• - -	Whiskey	(WISS-KEY)
X	- •• -	Xray	(ECKS-RAY)
Y	- • - -	Yankee	(YANG-KEY)
Z	- - ••	Zulu	(ZOO-LOO)
1	• - - - -	One	(WUN)
2	•• - - -	Two	(TOO)
3	••• - -	Three	(TREE)
4	•••• -	Four	(FOW-ER)
5	•••••	Five	(FIFE)
6	- ••••	Six	(SIX)
7	- - •••	Seven	(SEV-EN)
8	- - - ••	Eight	(AIT)
9	- - - - •	Nine	(NIN-ER)
0	- - - - -	Zero	(ZEE-RO)

Calling a Ground Station

Facility	Call Sign
Airport UNICOM	"Shannon UNICOM"
FAA Flight Service Station	"Chicago Radio"
Airport Traffic Control Tower	"Augusta Tower"
Clearance Delivery Position (IFR)	"Dallas Clearance Delivery"
Ground Control Position in Tower	"Miami Ground"
Radar or Nonradar Approach Control Position	"Oklahoma City Approach"
Radar Departure Control Position	"St. Louis Departure"
FAA Air Route Traffic Control Center	"Washington Center"

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