

Learn the phonetic alphabet

Help your Scouts master this useful communication tool

Suitable for **Beavers+**

Pilots, air-traffic controllers and airport workers sometimes use the phonetic alphabet to communicate letters or numbers with each other. The phonetic alphabet is used in radio communications to avoid mistakes.



Each letter of the alphabet is represented by a specific word:

A Alpha	G Golf	M Mike	S Sierra	
B Bravo	H Hotel	N November	T Tango	
C Charlie	I India	O Oscar	U Uniform	Y Yankee
D Delta	J Juliett	P Papa	V Victor	Z Zulu
E Echo	K Kilo	Q Quebec	W Whiskey	
F Foxtrot	L Lima	R Romeo	X X-Ray	

Numbers are said with different emphasis to make them easier to understand:

1 WUN	4 FO WER	7 SE VEN	0 ZEE RO
2 TOO	5 FIFE	8 AIT	
3 TREE	6 SIX	9 NINER	

What to do

Split your Group into pairs and ask them to practice saying the phonetic alphabet to each other. Keep going until they can recite the alphabet from memory. Once they're ready, ask them to crack the codebreaker (right).

Codebreaker

Echo Victor Echo Romeo Yankee – Yankee Echo Alpha Romeo – Oscar Victor Echo Romeo – 70 – Mike India Lima Lima India Oscar November – Papa Alpha Sierra Sierra Echo November Golf Echo Romeo Sierra – Foxtrot Lima Yankee – Foxtrot Romeo Oscar Mike – Hotel Echo Alpha Tango Hotel Romeo Oscar Whiskey!

Answer: "every year over 70 million passengers fly from Heathrow"

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