

International Radio Operators Alphabet



Alpha
Bravo
Charlie
Delta
Echo
Foxtrot
Golf
Hotel
India
Juliet
Kilo
Lima
Mike
November
Oscar
Papa
Quebec
Romeo
Sierra
Tango
Uniform
Victor
Whiskey
X-Ray
Yankee
Zulu

This is the International Radio Operators Alphabet. When Christian workers live overseas in small villages, they are often far away from cities, main roads, stores and hospitals. Sometimes they need to talk with other people who live in the city. Their radios work kind of like walkie-talkies.

Static, (a loud crackling noise) can make it very hard to hear and understand the message. Then they spell out the words. But they don't just use letters! They use these 'alphabet words' known to radio operators all over the world.

This is how a radio call might sound between a person in the city and another person in the village: (Many other countries measure by kilograms instead of pounds. *Kilo* is short for kilogram or 2.2 lbs.)

City: Papa-Yankee-Quebec 843,
 calling Zulu-Victor-Quebec 317, Over.
Village: Zulu-Victor-Quebec 317. Good morning. Over.
City: How's everything out there? Over.
Village: Everything's fine. Reading classes are going well.
 We translated 20 verses in the book of Luke today.
 There's a lady here very sick with malaria, and we
 are giving her medicine. Over.
City: We will keep praying for you and her. Is there
 anything you need on the flight next week? Over.
Village: Yes, we'd sure like some fresh vegetables. Over.
City: Zulu-Victor-Quebec 317, I'm getting a lot of static.
 Please spell out your order. Over.
Village: Roger. Here's what we need:
 3 kilos of *Papa-Oscar-Tango-Alfa-Tango-Oscar-Echo-Sierra* -----
 1 kilo of *Charlie-Alfa-Romeo-Romeo-Oscar-Tango-Sierra* -----
 1 kilo of *Tango-Oscar-Mike-Alfa-Tango-Oscar-Echo-Sierra* -----
 2 kilos of *Sierra-Quebec-Uniform-Alfa-Sierra-Hotel* -----
 2 kilos of *Oscar-November-India-Oscar-November-Sierra* -----

Figure out the shopping list by using the International Radio Operators Alphabet. Each word stands for its beginning letter.

Make your own walkie-talkie!

Materials:

- 2 cylinder-shaped boxes or cans
- 2 short pencils
- 1 long string
- 1 candle



Poke a small hole in the bottom of one container. Push one end of the string through the hole. Tie a pencil to the end of the string. Now pull the string so the pencil is against the bottom, inside the container. This will keep the string from pulling through the hole. With the other end of the string, connect the second container in the same way. Wax the string by rubbing the candle over it.

Now your walkie-talkie is ready to use! Speak into one end and have a friend listen in the other. When he speaks, you listen. Be sure the string is stretched out straight and not touching anything. You can practice the International Radio Operators Alphabet and pretend to be a pilot in a plane, a translator in the village or a radio operator in town. You might have to get a message out that someone needs to be flown to the hospital or that you must have snake bite antivenin delivered to the village. Your city friend might just want to wish you a happy birthday or ask if you'd like ice cream delivered on the next flight!

Did you notice that when a person is done speaking, he says 'over' to let the other person know he is finished? When he is ready to quit talking on the radio, he says 'over and out.' Radio operators also say 'roger' when they mean 'yes' or 'all right.' Try to sound as official as you can!

***Do you know Christian workers who live in isolated areas?
Work with them by praying. Ask God to keep them
from getting too lonely. God hears and answers prayer!***