



LEARNING AND PRACTICING MORSE CODE

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

This unique method of learning and or practicing will increase your Morse skills

There are two settings in this program:

LEARNING MORSE CODE. This is best way to learn using simple techniques of just 4 characters at a time.

PRACTICING MORSE CODE. This increases your speed skill.

It is particularly important for you to read these brief introduction details for each method: 'LEARN' or 'PRACTICE' Morse Code.

The method for Learning Morse here, will teach you much quicker than most, if not all the other available programs.

After you have read this documentation, have a little look at both 'Learn' and 'Practice' but DON'T start learning until you understand the reasons for correct setting of the sliders: -

'Speed (WPM)' {WPM = Words per Minute}

'Frequency (Hz)'

'Character Spacing'

'Volume (%)'

THE BEST AND EASIEST METHOD: Learn only 4 or 5 characters at a time. Start getting your brain registering the RHYTHM of the Morse sound of each character. The easiest way to do this is to start listening each character at 16 ~ 18 wpm with a reasonable period of silence before hearing the next character. Once you have learnt the first set of characters fully, you can then learn the next set.

THE SLOW METHODS: Many people started learning morse at around 5 words a minute (5 wpm). Learning at this speed certainly taught the correct amounts of dots and dashes per character. In the beginning you would start to increase the speed up 6 wpm then 7 wpm etc. The main problem starts at around 8 ~ 10 wpm. The brain can't detect the quantity of dots and dashes. It is starting to sound differently! In the brain, the sound of the dots changes to a rhythm. Learning dots and dashes becomes more difficult. Some folks then just give up - thinking they can't do it. Others who do plod on realise that the change of SOUND is a RHYTHM of the character. They then restart to relearn each character as the rhythm. In many of the other programs, they teach all characters etc at the same time, using words or sentences. This makes it a long-winded method.

ADVICE:

Morse code learning is a marathon, not a sprint. Be patient with yourself, practice consistently, and enjoy the journey. Every expert was once a beginner!

Ready to begin your Morse code journey? Start with the Learning Mode and follow the recommended sequence!"

2. THE LEARNING MODE

☐ LEARNING MODE - How It Works

The Learning Mode uses a systematic approach to teach you Morse code characters in carefully planned groups.

The learning of Morse in this program makes it much, much easier. You only need to learn FOUR characters at a time – once you have learnt them, you will never forget them. This means that you can then get the next 4 characters into the brain.

The other important factor is learning 'Equals and Opposites'. For example, D & U have the same number of dots and dashes, but the rhythm is different. Many other characters also have the same number of dots and dashes but in a different sequence. In the Learning section you will see 12 buttons that teach the appropriate set of 4 characters.

THE MOST IMPORTANT METHOD: Learn or practice at TWO WPM FASTER than you write it at 100%. It may seem frustrating because you will miss a few characters, but it means that it will be activating your brain to seal the sound of the rhythm into it. It is the only way of increasing the skills.

After you have had a good and proper learning session with the frustration of missing some characters, Have a short brief session at the speed 2 WPM slower. That should show that you are learning correctly.

LEARNING STRATEGIES:

Think sounds (rhythm). Each character has its own unique rhythmic sound.

Gradual Progression: Master each group BEFORE advancing to the next.

CHARACTER LEARNING SEQUENCE:

Characters are grouped by:

- Similar sound patterns.
- Common usage frequency.
- Distinguishable differences.

THE THREE REPETITIONS METHOD:

First Sound Play: Character displayed. View and listen to it

Second Sound Play: Character still displayed and listen again.

Third Sound Play: Look away, listen and write the character for reinforcement.

This method helps to embed the sound rhythm in your memory through repetition and association.

TIMING SYSTEM:

- Character Speed: 16 to 18 WPM (standard speed).
- Farnsworth Spacing: Adding gaps of silence between each character.
- Characters learned as complete sound rhythm.
- This prevents trying to count dots/dashes.

Focus on the rhythm and sound.

3. PRACTICE MODE

- ☐ PRACTICE MODE helps you develop speed and accuracy.

WHEN TO USE PRACTICE MODE:

- To reinforce previously learned characters.
- To build speed and confidence.
- For random character practice.

PRACTICE MODE FEATURES:

- Random character generation.
- Adjustable character speed.
- Farnsworth spacing control.
- Continuous practice sessions.
- Real-time feedback.

THE 'CHARACTER SPACING' SLIDE:

It will add variable lengths of silence between each rhythmic sound of the Morse character being learnt.

Set at '1' it will give the correct normal spacing between each character. However, when learning, adding a silent period between each audio sound will help your brain to register the rhythm of the character being learnt. Set between '2' and '10' will create extra silent periods between each character.

To start with, set it at '10' to begin learning the 4 characters selected. When you feel that your brain has started to automatically recognise the rhythm, then set it at '9' for a period of time, until the brain is happy with the rhythm. Then bit by bit, you get down to '1'.

"Learning or Practicing" really means registering the rhythm of the character into the brain that will automatically, without thinking, let you know the character being used. Hence, it's vital to listen to it at a slightly faster speed. Bit by bit it will get registered there!

Once it is in the brain, it will stay there for years, even if you don't use it often. That is the reason why all you need to do is to learn each of the 4 characters at a time.

SPEED CONTROLS:

- Character Speed: How fast individual characters play.
- Farnsworth Speed: Spacing between characters.
- Maintain accuracy over pure speed.

PRACTICE STRATEGIES:

- Accuracy First: Start at comfortable speed.
- Gradual Increase: Add 1-2 WPM when you are at 95% accurate.
- Regular Sessions: 5 minutes to 30 minutes.

MONITORING PROGRESS:

- Track your accuracy percentage.
- Note problem characters for extra practice.
- Record your comfortable receiving speed.
- Set realistic speed goals.

EXTRA TEXT:

- You can type any text in the 'Training Text' area. You can copy and paste words, sentences & paragraphs there too.

Remember: Consistent practice builds memory muscle and improves recognition in speed sound.

4. TIPS FOR SUCCESS – MASTERING MORSE CODE

- ☒ Follow these proven strategies to accelerate your Morse code learning.

DAILY PRACTICE ROUTINE:

- 5 to 30 minutes daily is better than long weekly sessions.
- Practice at the same time each day, if possible, for consistency.
- Use ONLY Learning mode when getting each and every character in the brain.
- Use both Learning and Practice modes once you have completed the Learning method.
- Take breaks to prevent fatigue.

LEARNING STRATEGIES:

- Sound (rhythm), Not Visual: Think sounds, not dots/dashes.
- Rhythm Recognition: Each character has a unique rhythm.
- Gradual Progression: Master each group before advancing to the next group.

COMMON MISTAKES TO AVOID:

- Don't try to count dots and dashes.
- Don't learn at slow speeds below 14 WPM.
- Don't skip difficult characters.
- Don't do irregular practice schedule.

LISTENING TIPS:

- Use good quality headphones or a quality speaker.
- Find a quiet practice environment with no interruptions.
- Adjust volume to comfortable level.
- Focus completely during practice sessions.

SPEED BUILDING:

- Start Practice at two WPM more than your 100% accuracy rate.
- Increase speed only when comfortable.
- Practice problem characters separately.

FINAL ADVICE:

Morse code learning is a marathon, not a sprint. Be patient with yourself, practice consistently, and enjoy the journey. Every expert was once a beginner!

Success comes from persistence and regular practice. You've got this 😊

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Ex RAF Wireless Operator/A (WOP/A) in the 1960's

A period as a 'special' military wireless monitor of ... shush ... top secret ... I can't tell you!!!

Then in the Aden, the Trucial Oman and other 'Middle East' countries doing interesting stuff with radios.

And being Arab trained riding horses without saddles or reins. (Nowt to do with Morse but fun)

Then my final year with the RAF was as a WOP/A in Air-Sea-Rescue at the 'Marine Craft Unit 1104', Bridlington, Yorkshire! (UK)

I wrote my first Morse learning software in early 'Basic' software in 1981 when Clive Sinclair invented the tiny and cheap ZX80/ZX81 computer.

The British Practical Wireless Magazine took it over in August 1983 - They sold many hundred copies of the software in cassettes.

I'm just updating my website. The 1983 Practical Wireless magazine version can be seen here:

<https://www.websilk.co.uk/PracticalWirelessMag1983>

I wish you all well. Good Luck & happy health.

Donald
