

# 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

In the box to the left, you see the International Radio Operator's Alphabet. When Christian workers live overseas in small villages, they often live far away from cities, main roads, stores and hospitals. Sometimes they need to talk with other people who live in the city. They use radios, or cell phones, but often they can't hear well.

Static, a loud crackling noise, or only parts of words can make it very hard to 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 a person in the village:

**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. One lady here has a very bad case of malaria. 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. I can't hear you very well. 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 \_\_\_\_\_

\*Many other countries measure by kilograms instead of pounds. "Kilo" is short for kilogram or 2.2 pounds.

**Can you figure out the shopping list by using the International Radio Operators' Alphabet? Remember each word stands for its beginning letter.**

# Make your own Walkie-Talkie

## Materials:

- two cylinder-shaped boxes or cans
- two short pencils
- one long string
- one 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 rests 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 need some snake bite antivenom (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 finishes speaking, he says "over" to say he has finished? When he wants 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? You can help them by praying. Ask God to make them able to do His work well, and to keep them from getting too lonely. God hears and answers when you pray!***