

Learning Morse Code using “Sound” and “Group” Logic

Learning **Morse Code** from **A to Z** requires a **very difficult memorization process**. Most people give up quickly thinking they don’t have the time or ability to learn the code. This system uses “**sound**” divided farther into **logical groups**. Code is much easier to learn starting with the easiest and simplest letters down to the more difficult ones. Plus breaking the more **difficult letters** down into **groups** reduces the **learning process even more**.

First of all it’s easy to see, at a glance, that we have **three columns**. They are the **DIT column**, the **DAH column**, and the **Numbers/Punctuation column**. There are **13 letters in the alphabet that begin with DIT** and **13 that begin with DAH**. So, when we “first” hear the sound of a **DIT** or a **DAH** we’ve **eliminated 50% of the letters, numbers, and the punctuation** as well.

NOTICE: Breaking the **letters** down into “**logical groups**” is yet another **learning tool**.

The **first column** is the ‘**DIT**’ series or group.

Starting with just one **DIT** we have the “multiple” **DIT group**. I’ve also added the number “**5**” as a start toward learning the numbers as well.

V is the only letter beginning with **3 DIT’s** followed by a **DAH** group. (not a group, but is distinguished as one for **sound logic** purposes here). (Victory) group

U and **F** are the **DIT DIT DAH** group. (University of Florida) group

A, R, L, is the **DIT DAH** group. (The “**ARRL**”) group

W, P, J are the **DIT DAH DAH** group. (Where’re my **PJ’s?**) group :-)

The **second column** is the ‘**DAH**’ series or group.

Starting with just one **DAH** the “multiple” **DAH group**, which also includes the number **0 (zero)**, for leaning the numbers.

G, Z, Q are the **DAH DAH DIT** group. (trip to zoo is **Giraffe Zebra Quest**) group

D, B, X are the **DAH DIT DIT** group. (**Big DX**) group (DX is short for distance code)

K, C, Y are the **DAH DIT DAH** group. **Kansas CitY** (Amtrak station) group

For learning purposes, we’ve included the word “DIT” in each example. Once we recognize each one of the letter’s “individual sound pattern” we’ll verbally speak the code by dropping the “T” in the “DITs” until the last DIT. For example, for the letter “F”, instead of DIT DIT DAH DIT, we pronounce it by saying DI DI DAH DIT. Some other “sound recognitions” may come to each individual person as well. Everyone is different. For instance, when hearing a question mark I personally relate it by (thinking) the “sound pattern,” as a question itself. The example is . . - . . “Did it DAH DAH did it?

As you listen to Morse Code practice you’ll probably use just the second page as a reference. Just print out the next page and bracket the groups, using a pen or pencil, to make it simple.

“DIT” column

E .

I . .

S . . .

H

5

V . . . _

U . . _

F . . _ .

A . _

R . _ .

L . _ . .

W . _ _

P . _ _ .

J . _ _ _

“DAH” column

T _

M _ _

O _ _ _

0 _ _ _ _ _

G _ _ .

Z _ _ . .

Q _ _ . _

N _ .

D _ . .

B _ . . .

X _ . . _

K _ . _

C _ . _ .

Y _ . _ _

#’s/punctuation

1 . _ _ _ _

2 . . _ _ _

3 . . . _ _

4 _

5

6 _

7 _ _ . . .

8 _ _ _ . .

9 _ _ _ _ .

0 _ _ _ _ _

Common Punctuation

? query . . _ _ . .

. period _

as/wait . _ . . .

@ . _ _ . . .

“ quote . _ _ _ _ .

Slash / _

=equals _

, coma _ _

:colon _ _ _

Group breakdowns

DIT only group

E .

I . .

S . . .

H

5

DIT DIT DIT group followed by 1 DAH

V . . . _

DIT DIT DAH group

U . . _

F . . _ .

DIT DAH group

A . _

R . _ .

L . _ . .

DIT DAH DAH group

W . _ _

P . _ _ .

J . _ _ _

DAH only group

T _

M _ _

O _ _ _

0 _ _ _ _ _

DAH DAH DIT group

G _ _ .

Z _ _ . .

Q _ _ . _

DAH DIT group

N _ .

D _ . .

B _ . . .

DAH DIT DIT group followed by 1 DAH

X _ . . _

DAH DIT DAH group

K _ . _

C _ . . .

Y _ . _ _

As you can see the numbers are arranged in a “sound” logical manor

1 . _ _ _ _

2 . . _ _ _

3 . . . _ _

4 _

5

6 _

7 _ _ . . .

8 _ _ _ . .

9 _ _ _ _ .

0 _ _ _ _ _

At first punctuation will sound strange. After awhile, you’ll learn them mostly by repetition.

As you can see I arranged them logically starting with the DITs then the DAHs.

Since we were very young children, we memorized the alphabet. Since then, the meaningless order of letters has been firmly planted in our minds. If we'd learned Morse code first, perhaps our parents would have been teaching us the EIS's instead of the ABCs.

When first learning Morse code, as most people, I memorized one letter at a time using the alphabet from A to Z. Notice, when memorizing Morse code in that order the letters are scrambled up and in no logical order.

The best method is to print out the second page and, with a pen or pencil, bracket the letters into groups as an additional aid. In the beginning, when you're listening to 5 WPM code, you can easily refer to that single page. Don't get discouraged easily. During the first few sessions you may only get around 5% to 20% of the letters and nothing will make sense. After an hour or two of listening to the short sessions you'll find yourself referring to the printed out sheet less and less. At that time you'll be grateful that you've finally learned to copy Morse code. When flying, the navigational aids put out Morse code at the rate of 10 WPM, which is also pretty slow.

There are several sites on the internet where you can listen to Morse code by using sound media software programs such as Media Player or by downloading files into a MP-3 player if you like going mobile. There are probably some "apps" for those who have the new smart phones as well.

An easy way to learn almost 1/3 (8 letters) of the alphabet, is to verbally say the following in code.... **BEST BENT WIRE** Say it a few times, and soon you'll be sending and receiving the words at around 18 + WPM. You'll soon realize just how easy code can be learned by the words and not just letters.

Find free practice sessions and a translator at the following sites.....

The ARRL site: <http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-files>

Another nice site is: <http://aa9pw.com/2010/11/19/morse-news/>

Here's a translator: <http://morsecode.scphillips.com/>

Good Luck and have fun with it!

Fred Young