Sample Contact Scripts

Disclaimer

These sample scripts focus on "real world" Amateur Practise. These are provided as a guide to assist Amateurs - especially when they are undergoing remote assessments when access to real-world equipment and real-world demonstration with real equipment is impractical.

Candidates for any VK Amateur radio Assessment must be aware of and assessed as competent to the regulated protocols and procedures.

The full protocol is best demonstrated in:

- *Bertrand, R, Wait, P "The Foundation Manual: Your Entry Into Amateur Radio"3rd Edition, The Wireless Institute of Australia* https://www.wia.org.au/licenses/foundation/foundationmanual/
- *https://www.acma.gov.au/amateur-radio-operating-procedures*

Assessment will be based on formal protocols documented.

HF Contact Script

(a) Always listen to find out of the resource is free. ← Very Important

Is this frequency in Use? This is VK3SIR

Listen for approximately 30 seconds

Is this frequency in Use? This is VK3SIR

Listen for approximately 30 seconds

Hopefully nobody will come back and you can then transmit !

The best response if the frequency is in use (i.e. a low station that you cannot hear) would be:

This frequency is in use. VK3SIR VK3VM   ← Truncate to advise

DO NOT RESPOND IF SOMEONE SAYS THE FREQUENCY IS IN USE

(b) Call CQ

> Note: Do NOT Call "CQ" on a repeater … See repeater process shortly

Formal procedure that you must be aware of

CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ VK3SIR VK3SIR VK3SIR CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ

CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ VK3SIR VK3SIR VK3SIR CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ

CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ VK3SIR VK3SIR VK3SIR CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ

Most (ok… ALL) HAMs truncate "formal" procedure …

"Practical" real-life procedure example

You will develop your own style. This is an example of Steve VK3VM's style:

CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ   This is VK3SIR VICTOR KILO THREE SIERRA INDIA ROMEO VK3SIR CQ CQ CQ

VK3SIR will then listen for 30 seconds before repeating.

(c) Responding to A CQ call

This assumes that VK3SIR is responding to a call from VK3VM:

VK3VM VK3VM VK3VM this is VK3SIR VK3SIR VK3SIR   ← Formal

VK3VM this is VK3SIR …. OVER   ← Typical real-world

Alternate: VK3SIR   ← Repeat your callsign ONCE

(d) Requesting a break-in to an existing conversation OR calling a station that is very busy

(conversation)

In the break: VK3SIR   ← Repeat your callsign ONCE

(conversation resumes – and hopefully a station calls you in with your call presented in a callsign exchange including your call)

(e) Acknowledging/Calling In a station, with example chatter

You can now be less formal - perhaps dropping some callsign exchanges.

VK3VM VK3SIR Hi My name is Stephen …. Receiving you 5 by 9 (welcoming statement) VK3VM VK3SIR [OVER]

VK3SIR VK3VM Hi My name is Steve …. Receiving you 5 by 9+20 (welcoming statement) [OVER]

We use a system based off Morse Code systems to report signal strengths – **The RST (Readability, Strength, Tone) System**.

Readability: This is a subjective measure on a 1 – 5 scale as to how hard it was to understand the conversation (i.e. 5 = perfectly readability, 4 - slight difficulty, 3 - very difficult, 2 - mostly unreadable, 1 - I know you are there but cannot make out what you are saying)

Strength: This is what you read off the signal meter. If it is above 9 we indicate to what degree it is above 9 (i.e. 5 by 9 +20).

Tone: Only added with Morse code and some digital conversations. This is a subjective measure (1 – 5) on how "pure" the tone sounds (i.e. 595).

VK3VM VK3SIR Hi Steve …. What is your QTH? I'm located in Warrnambool [OVER]

VK3SIR VK3VM Hi Stephen …. My QTH is Wollaston [OVER]

Each station is now only required to offer a callsign exchange every 10 mins.

VK3VM VK3SIR … … … VK3VM VK3SIR [OVER]

(f) Ending a Chat – and no further Operation

VK3VM VK3SIR Thanks for the brief contact. Best wishes and good luck for working more stations. 73 VK3VM VK3SIR [CLEAR]

Stations may add CLEAR to the end of their chat. This indicates no more contacts to be accepted/made (i.e. clearing the frequency).

VK3SIR VK3VM Thanks again. 73 VK3SIR VK3VM

Anticipate someone putting in a callsign at the end !

(g) QSY to a VHF/UHF Repeater

VK3VM VK3SIR Steve is it possible to QSY to VHF? VK3VM VK3SIR

VK3SIR VK3VM Sure. What Frequency and is it free? VK3SIR VK3VM

VK3VM VK3SIR Please stand by while I check? VK3VM VK3SIR

Change to new frequency and see if it is free – Use the "Section (a) for HF or (i) for Repeaters "Is this frequency Free" Process.

i.e. listen for approximately 30 seconds

VK3VM VK3SIR The VHF Frequency is free. QSY VK3VM VK3SIR

VK3SIR VK3VM Sure. QSY'ing to VHF VK3SIR VK3VM

Then the whole process of listening starts again

(h) Scripted example of a basic HF Voice QSO

Is this frequency in Use? This is VK3SIR

....

Is this frequency in Use? This is VK3SIR

....

CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ   This is VK3SIR VICTOR KILO THREE SIERRA INDIA ROMEO VK3SIR CQ CQ CQ

....

CQ CQ CQ   CQ CQ CQ   This is VK3SIR VICTOR KILO THREE SIERRA INDIA ROMEO VK3SIR CQ CQ CQ

...

VK3SIR this is VK3VM

VK3VM VK3SIR Hi - my name is Stephen …. My QTH is Warrnambool. I am receiving you 5/9. What is your name and QTH? How are you receiving me? VK3VM VK3SIR OVER

VK3SIR VK3VM Hi Stephen. My name is Steve …. My QTH is Wollaston. I am receiving you 5 by 9+20 OVER

End QSO

VK3VM VK3SIR Thanks for the brief contact. Best wishes and good luck for working more stations. 73 VK3VM VK3SIR CLEAR

VK3SIR VK3VM Thanks again. Same back to you. 73 VK3SIR VK3VM

End: QSY to VHF

VK3VM VK3SIR Is it possible to QSY to VHF? VK3VM VK3SIR

VK3SIR VK3VM Sure. What frequency and is it free? VK3SIR VK3VM

VK3VM VK3SIR Please stand by while I check? VK3VM VK3SIR

There will be a pause while the check is occurring

VK3VM VK3SIR The VHF Frequency is free. QSY VK3VM VK3SIR

VK3SIR VK3VM Sure. QSY'ing to VHF VK3SIR VK3VM

Repeater Contact Script

(i) Always listen to find out of the resource is free. ← Very Important

Listen for approximately 30 seconds

Repeaters "key up". If the frequency is in use you will hear via the broken squelch, or a "smooth sound" rather than hissing if no squelch set, that the repeater has keyed-up. You should also see an increase in the signal strength received up on the Radio's RF signal meter (if it has one).

If in doubt <u>ask if the frequency is in use in use</u>.

Is this frequency in use? This is VK3SIR.

This frequency is in use. VK3SIR ← Advise if not free!

(j) Advise that you are listening

Do NOT Call "CQ" on a repeater …

This is VK3SIR Listening

VK3SIR will then listen for 30 seconds before repeating.

(k) Calling a Station

VK3VM VK3SIR ← Calling for station VK3VM

(l) Responding to A CQ call

VK3SIR this is VK3VM …. Hi (chatter) ← Typical real-world

(m) Requesting a break-in to an existing conversation OR calling a station that is very busy

(conversation)

In the break: VK3SIR ← Repeat your callsign ONCE

**ALWAYS LEAVE BREAKS BETWEEN TRANSMISSIONS
THIS ALLOWS OTHERS TO BREAK IN AND/OR USE THE DEVICE**

Conversation resumes – hopefully a station calls you in with your call presented in a callsign exchange including your callsign.

(n) Acknowledging/calling in a station, with some example chatter

VK3VM VK3SIR Hi My name is Stephen. My QTH is Warrnambool. What is your QTH? VK3VM VK3SIR [OVER]

You can now be less formal and drop some of the callsign exchanges.

Do not give a Full RST report on Repeaters.

It is ok to state "I have you Readability 5".

You are not receiving a station's signal directly – you are receiving signals from a repeater – so there is no point giving a signal strength!

Better - helpful - comments may include "Your modulation is a little soft".

VK3SIR VK3VM Hi. My name is Steve. My QTH is Wollaston … (chat) … [OVER]

Each station is required to give a FULL callsign exchange every 10 minutes.

VK3VM VK3SIR … … … VK3VM VK3SIR [OVER]

VK3SIR VK3VM … … … VK3SIR VK3VM [OVER]

(o) Ending a Chat

Example: If "going" i.e. no further communication sought:

VK3VM VK3SIR Steve …. Thanks for the Chat. 73 VK3VM VK3SIR CLEAR

Example: If "leaving" but are still available for further contact:

VK3SIR VK3VM Thanks Stephen. Great chat … 73 VK3SIR VK3VM LISTENING

(p) Scripted example of a full but basic Repeater QSO

This is VK3SIR Listening

….

This is VK3SIR Listening

….

VK3SIR this is VK3VM. Hi Stephen. Receiving you loud and clear … (chat) … [OVER]

… (chatter) …

VK3VM VK3SIR Thanks for the chat. I need to QRT. 73. VK3VM VK3SIR CLEAR

VK3SIR VK3VM Thanks again. Same back to you. 73. VK3SIR VK3VM LISTENING