Way back in 1836, Samuel F. B. Morse, along with Joseph Henry and Alfred Vail, invented an electrical telegraph system. Before telephones were invented, it could send messages over long distances by using pulses of electricity to signal a machine to make marks on a moving paper tape.

A code was necessary to help translate the marks on the paper tape into readable text messages. Morse developed the first version of this code.

1. What problem was Morse code intended to solve?

In 1836 Samuel Morse, Joseph Henry and Alfred vail teamed up to create a device known as a telegraph. It was a form of long distance communication that would send pulses of electricity to the person you want to send it to, then their machine would mark a moving paper tape each time it received a pulse of electricity. However, this machine could not yet be sophisticated enough to print out letters, all it could do is print dots and lines, so a code had to be created so people could translate the electric pulses into readable text. Samuel Morse got tasked with creating this and thus, Morse code was created.