

Amateur Radio: Q Codes, CW Signs & RST Codes

Q Codes

CODES

QRL = "Is frequency in use?" or "Are you busy?" (Listen first...)
QRM = "I'm being interfered with" *man-made* (e.g. jamming)
QRN = "I'm troubled by static" *non-man-made* interference
QRS = "Send more Slowly"
QRX = "I will call you again" (XXX = kisses)
QRZ = "Who is calling me?" (Who is this?)
QSO = "A contact is in progress" (Thanks for the QSO / hello)
QSY = "Change frequency" (QSY to 14.210, frequency)
QTH = "My location is" My QTH is Toronto (Query The House)
QSL = "I acknowledge" I understand, Roger (Trade QSL cards?)
QRT = "Stop sending" (Finished, done) (I'm QRTing for the day)
QRB = "Your signal is fading" (I can Barely hear you)

PRACTICE

1. What is the meaning of the Q signal "QRS"? *1. Send more slowly*
2. What is one meaning of the Q signal "QTH"? *2. My location is*
3. What is the proper Q signal to use to see if a frequency is in use before transmitting on CW? *3. QRL?*
4. What is one meaning of the Q signal "QSY"? *4. Change frequency*
5. What is the meaning of the Q signal "QSB"? *5. Your signal is fading*
6. What is the proper Q signal to ask who is calling you on CW? *6. QRZ?*
7. The signal "QRM" signifies: *7. I am being interfered with*
8. The signal "QRN" means: *8. I am troubled by static*
9. The "Q signal" indicating that you want the other station to send slower is: *9. QRS*
10. Who is calling me is denoted by the "Q signal": *10. QRZ?*
11. The "Q signal" which signifies "I will call you again" is: *11. QRX*

CW Operations, Procedural Signs / Prowords

SIGNS

DX = Long Distance
73 = Best Wishes/Bye (not 73's)
AR = End of message
BT = Break in the text
SK = End of Transmission
RST = Readability, Strength, Tone
RS = Readability, Strength (voice)

PRACTICE

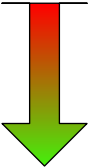
____ = Long Distance
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PRACTICE

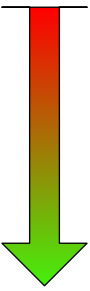
DX = _____
73 = _____
AR = _____
BT = _____
SK = _____
RST = _____
RS = _____

RST Codes: Readability (1-5), Signal (1-9), Tone (1-9)

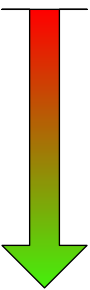
READABILITY

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- 1 = Unreadable
 - 2 = Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable
 - 3 = Readable with considerable difficulty
 - 4 = Readable with practically no difficulty
 - 5 = Perfectly readable

SIGNAL

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- 1 = Faint signal, barely perceptible
 - 2 = Very weak
 - 3 = Weak
 - 4 = Fair
 - 5 = Fairly good
 - 6 = Good
 - 7 = Moderately strong
 - 8 = Strong
 - 9 = Very strong signal

tone (Used only in Morse code & digital operations)

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- 1 = Very rough and broad
 - 2 = Very rough, very harsh and broad
 - 3 = Rough tone, rectified but not filtered
 - 4 = Rough note, some trace of filtering
 - 5 = Filtered rectified, but strongly ripple-modulated
 - 6 = Filtered tone, definite trace of ripple modulation
 - 7 = Near pure tone, trace of ripple modulation
 - 8 = Near perfect tone, slight trace of modulation
 - 9 = Perfect tone, no trace of ripple or modulation of any kind

PRACTICE

1. What is the meaning of: "Your signal report is 5 7"?
 2. What is the meaning of: "Your signal report is 3 3"?
 3. What is the meaning of: "You are 5 9 plus 20 dB"?
 4. A distant station asks for a signal report on a local repeater you monitor. Which fact affects your assessment?
 5. If the power output of a transmitter is increased by four times, how might a nearby receiver's S-meter reading change?
 6. By how many times must the power output of a transmitter be increased to raise the S-meter reading on a nearby receiver from S8 to S9?
 7. What does "RST 579" mean in a Morse code contact?
 8. What does "RST 459" mean in a Morse code contact?
 9. What is the meaning of "Your signal report is 1 1"?
- 1. Your signal is perfectly readable and moderately strong*
2. Your signal is readable with considerable difficulty and weak in strength
3. You are perfectly readable with a signal strength 20 decibels greater than S 9
4. The other operator needs to know how well he is received at the repeater, not how well you receive the repeater
5. Increase by approximately one S unit
6. Approximately 4 times
7. Your signal is perfectly readable, moderately strong, and with perfect tone
8. Your signal is quite readable, fair strength, and with perfect tone
9. Your signal is unreadable, and barely perceptible