

Talking on the Radio Cheat Sheet

by the Lefty Radio League

General Radio Etiquette

1. Listen and wait for a pause in radio traffic before talking. (transmitting)
2. Hold down the push-to-talk (PTT) button and *wait 1 second* because your radio's transmitter may take that long to kick in.
 - a. Hold down the PTT button firmly for as long as you are speaking.
 - b. No one else can transmit while you are transmitting, so...
 - c. Say one thing only each time you transmit. *Don't ramble.*
3. Say the name of who you're calling 2-3 times, and then your own.
4. When you are done, say "Over" to indicate the other side can talk.
5. To break into a conversation, say "Break" and your name during a pause.
 - a. Say "Priority" if it's urgent, "Emergency" if it's an emergency.
6. Acknowledge the other side's transmission with "Copy" or "Roger".
7. When your conversation is over, say your name and then "Clear" to indicate that you're leaving the channel open for others to use.

Repeater Etiquette

A repeater is a shared resource for many radio operators. Keep conversations brief! Move longer conversations off the repeater ASAP.

1. Follow all the general radio etiquette rules!
2. Wait an extra second before talking; some repeaters have a courtesy tone you can hear that tells you when you can start talking.
3. State your FCC callsign at the beginning of your first transmission.
4. If necessary, exchange contact info with the person you're talking to: a non-repeater GMRS channel, a phone number, even a meeting place.
5. When you finish, release the PTT button and listen for the repeater to make the tone that says your transmission was successfully received.
6. Wait an extra second before speaking again, to give time for others to transmit to the repeater if they need to break in.

NATO Phonetic Alphabet

Alfa	Echo	India	Mike	Quebec	Uniform	Yankee
Bravo	Foxtrot	Juliett	November	Romeo	Victor	Zulu
Charlie	Golf	Kilo	Oscar	Sierra	Whiskey	
Delta	Hotel	Lima	Papa	Tango	X-Ray	

Talking on the Radio Cheat Sheet

by the Lefty Radio League

General Radio Etiquette

1. Listen and wait for a pause in radio traffic before talking. (transmitting)
2. Hold down the push-to-talk (PTT) button and *wait 1 second* because your radio's transmitter may take that long to kick in.
 - a. Hold down the PTT button firmly for as long as you are speaking.
 - b. No one else can transmit while you are transmitting, so...
 - c. Say one thing only each time you transmit. *Don't ramble.*
3. Say the name of who you're calling 2-3 times, and then your own.
4. When you are done, say "Over" to indicate the other side can talk.
5. To break into a conversation, say "Break" and your name during a pause.
 - a. Say "Priority" if it's urgent, "Emergency" if it's an emergency.
6. Acknowledge the other side's transmission with "Copy" or "Roger".
7. When your conversation is over, say your name and then "Clear" to indicate that you're leaving the channel open for others to use.

Repeater Etiquette

A repeater is a shared resource for many radio operators. Keep conversations brief! Move longer conversations off the repeater ASAP.

1. Follow all the general radio etiquette rules!
2. Wait an extra second before talking; some repeaters have a courtesy tone you can hear that tells you when you can start talking.
3. State your FCC callsign at the beginning of your first transmission.
4. If necessary, exchange contact info with the person you're talking to: a non-repeater GMRS channel, a phone number, even a meeting place.
5. When you finish, release the PTT button and listen for the repeater to make the tone that says your transmission was successfully received.
6. Wait an extra second before speaking again, to give time for others to transmit to the repeater if they need to break in.

NATO Phonetic Alphabet

Alfa	Echo	India	Mike	Quebec	Uniform	Yankee
Bravo	Foxtrot	Juliett	November	Romeo	Victor	Zulu
Charlie	Golf	Kilo	Oscar	Sierra	Whiskey	
Delta	Hotel	Lima	Papa	Tango	X-Ray	

Radio Terminology

Acknowledged: I heard and understand you. Same as “Copy”.

Affirmative: Same as “Yes”. Avoid “yes” or “yeah”, as they are difficult to hear on the air.

Break: Used to interrupt a communication. See “Priority” and “Emergency”.

Clear: Say at the end of a conversation to tell anyone listening that the channel is now clear for others to use.

Come in: You are asking the other party to acknowledge they hear you.

Confirm: Use to explicitly verify information you heard. “Please confirm...”

Copy: Same as “Acknowledged”.

Correction: Fix what you just said incorrectly. “Correction, the address is...”

Did not copy: You could not hear or understand the last transmission.

Disregard: “Disregard my last transmission.”

Emergency: Used to signal a life-threatening transmission. “(Your callsign), break, break, break, emergency.”

Go ahead: You are ready to receive transmission.

Negative: Means “No”, but easier to distinguish on the air.

Net: An on-air radio meeting on a specific frequency.

Net Control: The operator running a net.

Out: All conversation is finished. Same as “Clear”.

Over: Your message is finished and you expect a response, vs “Clear/Out”.

Priority: Used to signal an important — but not life-threatening — transmission. “(Your callsign), break, break, break, priority.”

Repeat: Used *before* repeating something: “I need 9, repeat 9, liters of fuel.”

Roger: Same as “Acknowledged”.

Say again: Asking the other station to repeat what they just said.

Stand by: You acknowledge the other party, but can’t respond immediately.

Traffic: A message or info to pass on the air. “I have two pieces of traffic for Medic 1.”

Anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian, antennas.
www.leftyradio

Radio Terminology

Acknowledged: I heard and understand you. Same as “Copy”.

Affirmative: Same as “Yes”. Avoid “yes” or “yeah”, as they are difficult to hear on the air.

Break: Used to interrupt a communication. See “Priority” and “Emergency”.

Clear: Say at the end of a conversation to tell anyone listening that the channel is now clear for others to use.

Come in: You are asking the other party to acknowledge they hear you.

Confirm: Use to explicitly verify information you heard. “Please confirm...”

Copy: Same as “Acknowledged”.

Correction: Fix what you just said incorrectly. “Correction, the address is...”

Did not copy: You could not hear or understand the last transmission.

Disregard: “Disregard my last transmission.”

Emergency: Used to signal a life-threatening transmission. “(Your callsign), break, break, break, emergency.”

Go ahead: You are ready to receive transmission.

Negative: Means “No”, but easier to distinguish on the air.

Net: An on-air radio meeting on a specific frequency.

Net Control: The operator running a net.

Out: All conversation is finished. Same as “Clear”.

Over: Your message is finished and you expect a response, vs “Clear/Out”.

Priority: Used to signal an important — but not life-threatening — transmission. “(Your callsign), break, break, break, priority.”

Repeat: Used *before* repeating something: “I need 9, repeat 9, liters of fuel.”

Roger: Same as “Acknowledged”.

Say again: Asking the other station to repeat what they just said.

Stand by: You acknowledge the other party, but can’t respond immediately.

Traffic: A message or info to pass on the air. “I have two pieces of traffic for Medic 1.”

Anti-capitalist, anti-authoritarian, antennas.
www.leftyradio