



## Phonetic Alphabet



The phonetic alphabet is another useful tool used on marine radio channels to help avoid confusion. A phonetic alphabet is used to spell out difficult names and ambiguous words one letter at a time. Although any number of phonetics could be used to spell out difficult words on a letter-by-letter basis, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) phonetic alphabet illustrated below has been adopted internationally for this purpose. U.S. Coast Guard stations and vessels at sea use this alphabet frequently over marine radio channels to avoid misunderstanding. Recreational boaters are encouraged to memorize the ICAO phonetic alphabet and use it over the radio when appropriate.

ICAO PHONETIC ALPHABET			
<b>A</b>	ALPHA	<b>N</b>	NOVEMBER
<b>B</b>	BRAVO	<b>O</b>	OSCAR
<b>C</b>	CHARLIE	<b>P</b>	PAPA
<b>D</b>	DELTA	<b>Q</b>	QUEBEC
<b>E</b>	ECHO	<b>R</b>	ROMEO
<b>F</b>	FOXTROT	<b>S</b>	SIERRA
<b>G</b>	GOLF	<b>T</b>	TANGO
<b>H</b>	HOTEL	<b>U</b>	UNIFORM
<b>I</b>	INDIA	<b>V</b>	VICTOR
<b>J</b>	JULIET	<b>W</b>	WHISKEY
<b>K</b>	KILO	<b>X</b>	X-RAY
<b>L</b>	LIMA	<b>Y</b>	YANKEE
<b>M</b>	MIKE	<b>Z</b>	ZULU

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