

Mnemonic Morse Code

A	• —	a-BOUT	
B	— • • •	BOIS-ter-ous-ly	
C	— • — •	CARE-less CHILD-ren	
D	— • •	DAN-ger-ous	
E	•	eh?	
F	• • — •	fe-ne-STRA-tion	
G	— — •	GOOD GRA-vy!	
H	• • • •	hee hee hee hee	
I	• •	aye aye	
J	• — — —	the BLUE JAY WAY	
K	— • —	KET-tle KORN	
L	• — • •	li-NO-le-um	
M	— —	MORE MILK!	
N	— •	NA-vy	
O	— — —	OH MY GOSH!	
P	• — — •	pa-RADE PAN-el	
Q	— — • —	QUEEN'S WED-ding DAY	♪Here comes the bride...♪
R	• — •	ro-TA-tion	
S	• • •	si si si	
T	—	THRUST	
U	• • —	un-der WHERE?	
V	• • • —	va-va-va-VOOM!	
W	• — —	with WHITE WHALE	<i>How Capt. Ahab left this world</i>
X	— • • —	EX-tra ex-PENSE	
Y	— • — —	YEL-low YO-YO	
Z	— — • •	ZINC ZOO-keep-er	
1	• — — — —	1 dot on left	
2	• • — — —	2 dots on left	

3	• • • — —	3 dots on left
4	• • • • —	4 dots on left
5	• • • • •	5 dots
6	— • • • •	(10-6) dots on right
7	— — • • •	(10-7) dots on right
8	— — — • •	(10-8) dots on right
9	— — — — •	(10-9) dots on right
0	— — — — —	5 dashes
	• — • • •	Wait
	• • • • • • • •	Error
	• • • — •	Understood
	— • —	Invitation to transmit
	• • • — • —	End of work
	— • — • —	Starting signal
	• — • — •	Ending signal
	— dah	• dit

short mark, dot or 'dit' (•) — one unit long

longer mark, dash or 'dah' (—) — three units long

intra-character gap (between the dots and dashes within a character) — one unit long

short gap (between letters) — three units long

medium gap (between words) — seven units long

Samuel Finley Breese Morse (1791-1872) was an American inventor and painter. After a successful career painting in oils (first painting historical scenes and then portraits), Morse built the first American telegraph around 1835 (the telegraph was also being developed independently in Europe).

A telegraph sends electrical signals over a long distance, through wires. Morse patented a working telegraph machine in 1837, with help from his business partners Leonard Gale and Alfred Vail. By 1838, Morse could send 10 words per minute. Congress provided funds for building a telegraph line between Washington D.C. and Baltimore, Maryland, in 1843. Morse sent the first telegraphic message (from Washington D.C. to Baltimore) on May 24, 1844; the message was: "What hath God wrought?" The telegraph revolutionized long-distance communications.

In 2005, the Powerhouse Museum of Sydney, Australia, held a contest between two elderly telegraph operators using Morse code and two teenagers using text messaging on their mobile phones. The telegraph operators beat them handily, despite their not using any texting abbreviations—and being 93 years old.