

Word Meaning

RADIO CHECK = What is my signal strength and readability, i.e., how do you hear me?

ROGER = I have heard and understood your transmission.

WILCO = I have heard and understood your instructions, and will comply with them.

CLEAR = I am finished with this communication and am standing by on the channel.

AFFIRMATIVE = Yes.

ALL AFTER = The portion of the message to which I make reference is all which follows.

ALL BEFORE = The portion of the message to which I make reference is all which comes before.

BREAK = I hereby indicate the separation of text from other portions of the message.

CORRECT = You are correct, or what you have transmitted is correct.

CORRECTION = An error has been made in this transmission. Transmission will continue with the last word correctly sent. The correct version is...

ETA = Estimated time of arrival.

FROM = The originator of this message.

I SPELL = I shall spell the next word phonetically.

OPS NORMAL = Used to say the patrol is normal in all respects, "operations normal".

OUT = Used following the last line of the message transmitted, signifying the end of the transmission and nothing follows. No reply is required or expected.

OVER = Used following a transmission when a response from the other station is necessary. It is an invitation to the other station to transmit.

NEGATIVE = No.

I SAY AGAIN = I am repeating transmission or the portion indicated

REQUEST YOU SAY AGAIN = you should repeat your transmission or the portion indicated.

SILENCE = (Spoken 3 times and pronounced SEE LONS) Cease all transmissions immediately. Silence will be maintained until lifted. Used to clear routine transmissions from a channel only when an emergency is in progress.

SILENCE FINI = (Pronounced SEE LONS FEE NEE) Silence is lifted. Indicates the end of an emergency and resumption of normal traffic.

THIS IS = This transmission is from the station whose designator immediately follows.

TO = The addressees immediately following are addressed for action.

UNKNOWN STATION = The identity of the station which you are trying to establish communications with is unknown.

WAIT = I must pause for a few seconds.

WAIT OUT = I must pause longer than a few seconds.

WRONG = Your last transmission was not correct. The correct version is...

You must also learn the phonetic alphabet

Quick radio check

Because "Roger" means that you have heard and understood, that is all you need to say for a successful radio check. Radio check normally goes:

X: "Any station this net, this is X. Radio Check, over."

Y: "X, this is Y, Roger, over."

X: "Y, this is X, Roger, out."

The point being that you want to spend as little time on the air as possible, so your position can't be triangulated. This is the shortest, by the book, way to communicate your intent, and be sure your communication was heard.

If the reception is crappy to the point where it might affect comms, Y might say:

Y: "X, this is Y, be advised your transmission is broken and distorted, over."

X: "Y, this is X, roger, out."

Then X would check his radio to figure out what the hell is wrong with it.

Obviously, if X knows Y is out there and listening, and wants to get a radio check with that person specifically, he would substitute "Y" for "any station this net" in the original transmission.

'Out' doesn't necessarily mean you are shutting down or switching channels. It just means you have said and heard all you need to say and hear, and you are ending that conversation. There are 2 schools of thought on "out". One school says that the originator of a radio conversation always finishes it, and thus is the one who should say 'out'. The second school says that you never 'out' higher (i.e. you never tell someone who outranks you that the conversation is over; they tell you when it is over). In practice (officers being officers), the latter is more common.

'Repeat'

Something I teach all my soldiers: Never mistake the word 'Repeat' for 'Say Again'. 'Say Again' = Send your last transmission again. 'Repeat' = Fire last mission again. The latter is used with respect to artillery. If you go to check on the damage an artillery mission did, and you say 'repeat' on the radio, you might be in for a nasty surprise!