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## Morse code practice

Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Society

### Welcome

A big welcome to the Milton Keynes Amateur Radio Morse code practice sessions. These sessions are run by a group of members who are very enthusiastic Morse code (CW) operators eager to pass on the skills so that others can enjoy this wonderful mode. Our sessions are friendly, relaxed and with no pressure just a lot of encouragement.

### Learning Morse

Each character of Morse code needs to be treated as a rhythm, a “tune” that you will eventually recognise as a character. It’s important not to refer Morse characters as dots and dashes but in the more rhythmical terms of dit’s and dah’s. When English is spoken the word sounds are quickly processed automatically by the brain, this is what we want to achieve with the “sound” of Morse characters, and eventually entire words made up of Morse characters sounds.

12 words per minute (wpm) character speed is about the lowest usable speed in CW, anything below this becomes very tiresome. During our practice sessions we will use 12wpm as the lowest character speed but insert longer gaps between characters and words bringing the overall passage speed down to 5wpm. This is called the Farnsworth method.

Session 1 we will be learning characters **E I S H T M O** and after the 4<sup>th</sup> session all characters of the alphabet will be covered. During sessions 2 to 4 we will also cover numbers 0 to 9.

We can give you all the support and structure to learn CW, however you have to supply the want to learn and the work involved to achieve it. Please practice 10 to 15 minutes each day. Supplied and demonstrated during this session will be a simple CW computer practice program containing preloaded session characters to practice with, further practice data QSO’s etc will be supplied at a later date.

If you have any comments or requests regarding the CW training sessions please let one of the Morse team know. Finally we wish you good luck with the CW and remember perseverance will pay off.

#### ***MKARS Morse team***

***John M0TIF (Morse instructor and examiner)***  
***Steve G0GGU (Morse instructor and examiner –Deputy-)***  
***Murry M0MUZ (Morse instructor –Reserve-)***  
***Dave G3ZPA (Morse instructor –Reserve-)***

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