



# Military English

## Vocabulary Builder – The Phonetic Alphabet

**Overview:**

This worksheet lists The (International) Radiotelephony Spelling Alphabet, commonly known as the Phonetic Alphabet, NATO Phonetic Alphabet, ICAO Phonetic Alphabet, or ICAO Spelling Alphabet.

**In this vocabulary builder, you will:**

- ✓ practice pronunciation of the Phonetic Alphabet
- ✓ use the Phonetic Alphabet

1) Do you know the Phonetic Alphabet, or parts of it? Write what you know in the table below.

Letter	Word	Letter	Word	Letter	Word
A	Alpha	J		S	
B	Bravo	K		T	
C	Charlie	L		U	
D		M		V	
E		N		W	
F		O		X	
G		P		Y	
H		Q		Z	
I		R			

2) Here is the complete alphabet, with the correct pronunciation.

a. Compare this table with your answers from exercise 1 – how many did you get correct?

b. Read each word aloud and try to decide where the stress (strong part) is. E.g. **Alpha**, **November**

Letter	NATO word	Pronunciation
A	Alpha	/ˈælfə/
B	Bravo	/ˈbrɑːvəʊ /
C	Charlie	/ˈtʃɑːli/
D	Delta	/ˈdeltə/
E	Echo	/ˈekəʊ/
F	Foxtrot	/ˈfɒkstrət/
G	Golf	/gɒlf/
H	Hotel	/həʊˈtel/
I	India	/ˈɪndiə/
J	Juliet	/ˈdʒuːliət/
K	Kilo	/ˈkiːləʊ/
L	Lima	/ˈliːmə/
M	Mike	/maɪk/

Letter	NATO word	Pronunciation
N	November	/nəʊˈvembə/
O	Oscar	/ˈɒskə/
P	Papa	/pəˈpɑː/
Q	Quebec	/kwɪˈbek/
R	Romeo	/ˈrəʊmiəʊ/
S	Sierra	/siˈerə/
T	Tango	/ˈtæŋɡəʊ/
U	Uniform	/ˈjuːnɪfɔːm/
V	Victor	/ˈvɪktə/
W	Whiskey	/ˈwɪski/
X	X-ray	/ˈeks reɪ/
Y	Yankee	/ˈjæŋki/
Z	Zulu	/ˈzuːluː/



- 3) Now let's practise saying the words. Pay attention to the stress (strong/weak parts). Listen and repeat.
- 4) With a partner, practise saying the words. Give your partner some feedback. Test each other.

For example:

A: What's the word for J?

B: It's Juliet.

A: That's right!

A: Do you know the word for Z?

B: Yes, it's Zebra.

A: This is not correct. It's Zulu.

- 5) Practice activities. Work with a partner.

- a. Spell your name(s) using the Phonetic Alphabet.

E.g. "My name is Sam Jones. That's 'S' for Sierra, 'A' for Alpha, and 'M' for Mike. Next word: 'J' for Juliet, 'O' for Oscar, 'N' for November, 'E' for Echo, and 'S' for Sierra."

- b. Give your partner other words to spell using the alphabet.

E.g. "Spell table / chair / classroom / window / clock" etc...

- 6) Extra information and practice.

- Use this link to listen to the alphabet again. Type on YouTube [Phonetic Alphabet ~ The NATO Phonetic Alphabet For Teaching](#) or scan the QR code



- Use this link to the NATO website to test yourself on the alphabet. [NATO - Declassified: The NATO phonetic alphabet – Alfa, Bravo, Charlie..., 20-Oct.-2016](#)



- Use this link to watch a video about the history of the Phonetic Alphabet. Type on YouTube [What is the NATO Phonetic Alphabet? Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta....](#) or scan the QR code



- This lesson links with → Vocabulary Builder: Military Time;  
Lesson: Radio Communications.

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