

**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** |  |

1. Here is the complete alphabet, with the correct pronunciation.
2. Compare this table with your answers from exercise 1 – how many did you get correct?
3. Read each word aloud and try to decide where the stress (strong part) is. E.g. ***Al****pha, No****vem****ber*

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Letter | NATO word | Pronunciation |  | Letter | NATO word | Pronunciation |
| A | Alpha | /ˈælfə/ |  | N | November | /nəʊˈvembə/ |
| B | Bravo | /ˈbrɑːvəʊ / |  | O | Oscar | /ˈɒskə/ |
| C | Charlie | /ˈtʃɑːli/ |  | P | Papa | /pəˈpɑː/ |
| D | Delta | /ˈdeltə/ |  | Q | Quebec | /kwɪˈbek/ |
| E | Echo | /ˈekəʊ/ |  | R | Romeo | /ˈrəʊmiəʊ/ |
| F | Foxtrot | /ˈfɒkstrɒt/ |  | S | Sierra | /siˈerə/ |
| G | Golf | /ɡɒlf/ |  | T | Tango | /ˈtæŋɡəʊ/ |
| H | Hotel | /həʊˈtel/ |  | U | Uniform | /ˈjuːnɪfɔːm/ |
| I | India | /ˈɪndiə/ |  | V | Victor | /ˈvɪktə/ |
| J | Juliet | /ˈdʒuːliət/ |  | W | Whiskey | /ˈwɪski/ |
| K | Kilo | /ˈkiːləʊ/ |  | X | X-ray | /ˈeks reɪ/ |
| L | Lima | /ˈliːmə/ |  | Y | Yankee | /ˈjæŋki/ |
| M | Mike | /maɪk/ |  | Z | Zulu | /ˈzuːluː/ |

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1. Now let’s practise saying the words. Pay attention to the stress (strong/weak parts). Listen and repeat.
2. With a partner, practise saying the words. Give your partner some feedback. Test each other.   
   For example:

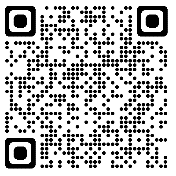
|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A: What’s the word for J?  B: It’s Juliet.  A: That’s right! | A: Do you know the word for Z?  B: Yes, it’s Zebra.  A: This is not correct. It’s Zulu. |

1. Practice activities. Work with a partner.
2. 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.”*

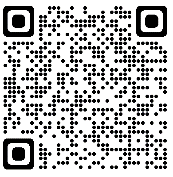
1. Give your partner other words to spell using the alphabet.

E.g. *“Spell table / chair / classroom / window / clock” etc…*

1. Extra information and practice.

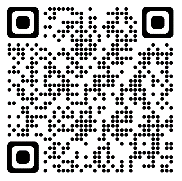
* Use this link to listen to the alphabet again. Type on YouTube

[Phonetic Alphabet ~ The NATO Phonetic Alphabet For Teaching](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f28fAVRL5Jg) 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](https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/declassified_136216.htm?selectedLocale=en)



* 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....](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nbbRceKGTZQ) or scan the QR code
* This lesson links with 🡪 Vocabulary Builder: Military Time;  
   Lesson: Radio Communications.

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