



CW Academy Advanced Class Advisor Supplemental Guideline
Supplemental Information for first time Advanced Level Advisors

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This document is intended to provide supplemental information to Advanced Class Advisors that is not included in the Advisor's manual. Information more specific to the Advanced Level.

The Advanced continues and builds on head copy of words and short phrases. Students continue to focus on abbreviations and words as distinct sounds. An increased focus is now on QSO and sentence copy.

The Advanced Class continues focus on recognizing common CW words, the most used two and three letter words and as well as hearing the most common prefixes and suffixes as sounds and adding them to the student's "CW vocabulary".

This can be done by example mp3 files and in-class practice of sending and receiving words of the specified type.

The advanced class is the highest level currently offered. The goals of the advanced class are similar to the intermediate class with longer exchanges at higher speeds.

The Advanced class helps students increase their speed, learn to handle typical contesting skills, learn copy-from-behind skills and copy longer exchanges in their head.

A question frequently comes up about CW speed: what rate, in words-per-minute, should a student be at the beginning of a class and at the end? This is a tricky question to answer. For example, some excellent contesters can handle contest exchanges at over 35 WPM but struggle with a casual CW QSO at 20 WPM. The CW Academy uses 25 WPM character speed throughout all levels .

. There is no magic speed "finish line": when the student gets to some point, then they have reached the end of their journey. Students should be encouraged to always push themselves a little bit further than wherever they are.

Persons leading a class are called advisors and not teachers. With classes that meet for about an hour twice a week and with four to seven (usually) students per class, it is not possible to teach students everything they need to know in eight weeks. The students must take on the role of learning and the advisor is there to check progress, encourage the students to keep trying, notice patterns that might indicate bad habits, help the students with issues in their journey and try to keep them engaged and willing to keep trying.

Advisors should be passionate about CW operating and willing to help others enjoy that same passion. Advisors are not expected to have formal teaching experience. They primarily act as mentors and help the students to succeed. All four class levels have written syllabi that the students will use. Some advisors supplement that with their own material. The advisor should go over the assignments that the student will be doing over the next few days then review the assignments and assess how the students are doing. Online meeting platforms with video are a great way to read body language.

It is important to remember that almost all of the CW Academy's students are adults and they should be treated as such. Students should never be belittled or made to feel like they are foolish. Students should be encouraged to think positive.

Having several students in a class also helps them to form a bond, even if they are not aware of it, and they can encourage each other and offer suggestions to each other on how they have succeeded at something. Advisors should encourage this practice.

Advanced Class. The Advanced class is designed to help students increase their speed, learn typical contesting skills, learn copy-from-behind skills, and copy longer exchanges in their head. The Advanced Class objectives are to:

- Increase head copy and send skills for higher-speed on-air activity,
- Increase on-air experience with various types of higher-speed QSOs,
- Increase contesting skills to 30 wpm plus,
- Recognize phrases as sounds,
- Learn to copy from behind, and
- Increase overall skills to become considered for CWops membership

The advanced class is the highest level currently offered. The goals of the advanced class are similar to the intermediate class with longer exchanges at higher speeds. Contesting skills are usually introduced or expanded on. The ability to copy from behind is introduced. Other advanced topics depending on the advisor are covered. Goals include: ● Hear a CW conversation in one's head and make notes about the most important things – the other operator's call sign and name, the location of the other operator and other details that come up that are worth noting. ● Being able to copy call signs and exchanges of contests at 30 WPM or higher. ● Increasingly clear sending of exchanges at higher speeds than the intermediate class. ● Learn to hear CW and enter notes or characters after the words or characters were sent (copy from behind). ● Students should be on the air trying contests and casual contacts. They should be able to handle the usual on-air issues, such as QRM, QRN, QSB, tuner-uppers, people with sloppy sending, etc. and not fall apart because things are not perfect.

Class exercises: ● Store game. One student starts and sends something that could be seen in a store (hardware, clothing, electronics, etc.). Second student sends the first item then adds another item. Third student sends the first two items and adds a third item. No writing; students (and advisor) are to retain everything in their heads. Continue until people cannot retain all the items.

● Similar exercises from intermediate class except at faster speeds and with longer segments. ● Students send QSOs, focusing mostly on the middle part of the QSO. Students can discuss the area they live in, jobs they have had, family, pets, food enjoyed, etc.

● Contest simulations. Start with more simple contests such as CQ WPX. Move up to Sweepstakes.

● Continued use of pangrams. Send clearly at higher speeds. ● Contest-like games where one student runs and other students call and send exchanges. Practice entering the calls and exchanges into a logging program.

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CW Academy Advisor's Manual Joe Fischer, AA8TA 2021

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The Advanced class continues the focus on head copy of words and short phrases that began at Intermediate Level. Students learn that abbreviations and words have distinct sounds.

The Advanced Class should continue to focus on learning common CW words, most used 2 and 3 letter words and most common prefixes and suffixes as sounds and focus on multiple word phrases and sentences with intent to copy sentences.

This can be done by example mp3 files and in-class practice of sending and receiving words/phrases/sentences of the specified type.

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Persons leading a class are called advisors and not teachers. With classes that meet for about an hour twice a week and with four to seven (usually) students per class, it is not possible to teach students everything they need to know in eight weeks. The students must take on the role of learning and the advisor is there to check progress, encourage the students to keep trying, notice patterns that might indicate bad habits, help the students with issues in their journey and try to keep them engaged and willing to keep trying.

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It is important to remember that almost all of the CW Academy's students are adults and they should be treated as such. Even kids should be treated with dignity. Students should never be belittled or made to feel like they are foolish. A student that is struggling badly usually does well with something, no matter how small that might be, and that can be used to emphasize that they are having success with something. Most people enjoy knowing that they are having success with something. Students should be encouraged to think positive; let success breed success. Thinking negative thoughts is demotivating and usually starts a negative slide that leads to the student dropping out of the class. Advisors should try to encourage students to keep positive. Having several students in a class also helps them to form a bond, even if they are not aware of it, and they can encourage each other and offer suggestions to each other on how they have succeeded at something. Advisors should encourage that.

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