

MorseCode.World ICR Guidelines

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The number one problem most people have with decoding Morse Code is that they they do not have Instant Character Recognition (*ICR*). Miss a single letter, you miss the word or a whole group of words.

The following 'no typing' exercises will help you get better at ICR, but only if you consistently practice and complete all the processes.

Getting Started with ICR

Begin at this link to the: [ICR webpage](#). A screenshot appears below. Nearly all controls have context help that appears when you over your mouse over them. Question mark key displays a list of keyboard shortcuts. Scroll toward the bottom of the page to find links to help on all the controls. We will always be using functions under the CW Academy top-level tab.

The screenshot shows the 'International Morse Training' website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'CW Generator', 'CW Academy (EN)', 'CW Academy (JP)', 'QSO', 'Word List', 'ICR', 'Headlines', and 'Help'. Below this is a sub-navigation bar with 'Practice Content', 'Message Options', 'Message', 'Playback Controls', 'History', 'Settings', and 'Donate'. The main content area has tabs for 'Alphabetical', 'CW Academy', 'Koch', 'LCWO', and 'LICW'. The 'CW Academy' tab is active, showing a grid of character selection buttons. Each button is labeled with a session number (S1-S10) and a character or symbol. The characters are: S1: A, E, N, T; S2: I, O, S, 1, 4; S3: D; H, L, R, 2, 5; S4: C, U; S5: M, W, 3, 6; ?, S6: F, Y, ,; S7: G, P, Q, 7, 9, /; S8: B, V, <AR>, S9: J, K, 0, 8, <BT>, S10: X, Z, .; <BK>, <SK>. Below the grid, there is a section for 'Extras not included in the CW Academy Beginner course:' with buttons for 'All:', '&', '.', '@', '(', ')', ':', '=', '!', '-', '+', and '"'. At the bottom, there is a 'Choose characters by type:' section with buttons for 'Letters', 'Numbers', 'Punctuation', 'Prosigns', and 'Clear'. The 'Message Options' section has radio buttons for 'Letters' (selected) and 'Words'. The 'Donate' section features a circular profile picture of a man.

Selecting Characters

An array of buttons lets you choose which letters, number, etc. you want to play. All buttons toggle and are highlighted in yellow when selected. Shortcut buttons S1, S2, S3 etc. will automatically select items from the various beginner level sessions 1 through 10. There are also four buttons to quickly select all letters, numbers, punctuation, or prosigns.

Message Options

ICR can generate single letters, pseudo-words consisting of random letters, or sentences of pseudo-words. You can select the lengths of words and sentences.

Playback Controls

There are many playback options, and even more can be revealed by turning on the *Detailed Controls* switch. You are encouraged to learn by experimenting. Here are some basic settings. Again, pay attention to the yellow borders that indicate what is selected.

- Character (speed): 25 wpm.
- Farnsworth (effective speed): 6 to 25 wpm.
- Stopwatch or Timer: Choose preferred practice time.
- Show & Say Before, and Show & Say After: You have the option of speaking the characters before or after they are sent, and also a flashcard before or after. Shift-C for flashcard, Shift-T for speech.
- Count: Sets number of repeats. Shortcut keys are 1 through 6.

Click the Play button. Shortcut keys are space or 0 which will also pause it.

Click the Next button to advance. Shortcut key m.

If desired, Clear History or Reset Settings.

The screenshot displays the 'Playback Controls' interface. At the top, there are links for 'Morse', 'Speech', 'Bell', 'Speed Racer', and 'Help'. Below these is a 'Detailed controls' toggle switch. The main area contains several sections: 'Simulated Morse key' (set to 'Computer (perfect timing)'), 'Playback style' (set to 'Custom'), and 'Character / Farnsworth' (set to '25 / 6'). There are also 'Stopwatch' and 'Timer' buttons with a '00:00:00' display. A 'Play' button is highlighted in yellow. Below this are 'Play options' (Repeat, Save Audio) and 'Message Modifier' (Build Up, Speed Racer) buttons. A section titled 'Toggle the buttons to choose what sequence to play and show for each message:' shows six numbered options: 1: Show & Say Before (Flashcard, Speech), 2: Morse (Morse, Count), 3: Recognition (Time), 4: Show & Say After (Flashcard, Speech), 5: Morse (Morse), and 6: Bell (Bell). The 'Time' button in option 3 is highlighted in yellow. At the bottom, there are input fields for 'Recognition Time (ms)' (1000), 'Flashcard Time (ms)' (1000), 'Extra Gap (ms)' (0), and 'Bell Gap (ms)' (200). A note at the bottom states 'Morse timing within a message is configured in the Morse Controls'.

Word Training

In word training, we generate pseudo-words using selected characters. All of the playback options still apply.

Select Words under Message Options. Enter the range of word length. In the Message area, hide the message. Click play to try it out.

Choose characters by type:

Letters Numbers Punctuation Prosigns

Message Options

Letters

The selected letters are shuffled to make nonsense "words" with length to characters.

Words

Sentences

Message (show)

In the later sections of this document devoted to each CW Academy level, a series of links are included for your convenience. Each one will bring up a MorseCode.World webpage with the required options selected to perform the exercise.

Note: when you have completed a particular practice, close that webpage and select another link from the list.

Make this Tool Effective and Test Yourself

At the end of the homework for the day, use ICR word training with random three letters, played three times at 6 wpm (*change based on your Level*), with audio off and Timer at 5 minutes.

Link with these settings: [3 Random Letters](#)

Playback Controls

Detailed controls [Morse](#) | [Speech](#) | [Bell](#) | [Speed Racer](#) | [Help](#)

Simulated Morse key Playback style Character / Farnsworth / Stopwatch Timer

Play

Toggle the buttons to choose what sequence to play and show for each message:

1: Show & Say Before 2: Morse 3: Recognition 4: Show & Say After 5: Morse 6: Bell

Write down what you heard and compare it to the History. You then can simply click on the 'red arrow' and play the code over again for any you may have missed. Repeat it enough times to 'fix' the correct information into your mind. When you are getting above 90% accuracy, increase the speed or number of characters.

History

Time		Message	Speed	#
08:39	▶	HY	25/6	3
08:38	▶	DZ	25/6	1
08:38	▶	FO	25/6	1
08:38	▶	HY	25/6	1
08:37	▶	WV	25/6	1
08:37	▶	JA	25/6	1

As you get better at hearing the code, you may want to wait a few letters or all the code until you write it down. This may help you get better at Instant Character Recognition (ICR) and learning to 'Copy Behind'.

Fundamental Level

This word training may also be useful for Beginner students after Session 10. The following general settings are used:

- Practice content: CW Academy
- Message Options: Words
- Character speed: 25 WPM
- Farnsworth speed: 6 WPM
- Word Length: 2

Practice until you are getting almost everything correct. Next, move speed up to 7 wpm, then 8 wpm. Do the same thing until you get to the 'class speed' or faster and then start over at 6 wpm and increase to 3 characters.

Link for random 2-character pairs: [2-Character Words](#)

For each set of Letter Training, we recommend that you do Word Training.

Link for 2-letter words: [Word List](#)

Links for Additional Practice Sessions

Pairs of numbers: [Numbers](#)

'Words' that consist of punctuation , . / ? [Some Punctuation](#)

'Words' that consist of prosigns <BT> <SK> <AR> <BK> [Prosigns](#)

'Words' that consist of punctuation and prosigns: [Punctuation and Prosigns](#)

'Words' that consist of all letters and numbers: [Letters Numbers](#)

A mix of letters, numbers and some punctuation: [Letters Numbers Some Punctuation](#)

Callsigns: [Callsigns](#)

Intermediate Level

The following general settings are used:

- Practice content: CW Academy
- Message Options: Words
- Character speed: 25 WPM
- Farnsworth speed: 10 WPM
- Word Length: 2

Practice until you are getting almost everything correct. Next, move speed up to 13 wpm, then 15 wpm. Do the same thing until you get to the 'class speed' or faster and then start over at 10 wpm and increase to 3 characters.

Link for random 2-character pairs: [2-character words](#)

For each set of Letter Training, we recommend that you do Word Training.

Link for 2 to 3 character words: [Words List](#)

Links for Additional Practice Sessions

Pairs of numbers: [Numbers](#)

'Words' that consist of punctuation , . / ? [Some Punctuation](#)

'Words' that consist of prosigns <BT> <SK> <AR> <BK> [Prosigns](#)

Prefixes of common words: [Prefixes](#) *(Click reset filters)*

Suffixes of common words: [Suffixes](#) *(Click reset filters)*

'Words' that consist of punctuation and prosigns: [Punctuation and Prosigns](#)

'Words' that consist of all letters and numbers: [Letters Numbers](#)

A mix of letters, numbers and some punctuation: [Letters Numbers Some Punctuation](#)

Callsigns: [Callsigns](#)

Advanced Level

The following general settings are used:

- Practice content: CW Academy
- Message Options: Words
- Character speed: 25 WPM
- Farnsworth speed: 20 WPM
- Word Length: 2

Practice until you are getting almost everything correct. Next, move speed up to 20 wpm, then 25 wpm. Do the same thing until you get to the 'class speed' or faster and then start over at 10 wpm and increase to 3 characters then 4, 5, etc.

Link for random 2-character pairs: [2-letter words](#)

For each set of Letter Training, we recommend that you do Word Training.

Link for words of random length: [Words](#)

Additional Practice Sessions

Pairs of numbers: [Numbers](#)

'Words' that consist of punctuation , . / ? [Some Punctuation](#)

'Words' that consist of prosigns <BT> <SK> <AR> <BK> [Prosigns](#)

Prefixes of common words: [Prefixes](#) *(Click reset filters)*

Suffixes of common words: [Suffixes](#) *(Click reset filters)*

'Words' that consist of punctuation and prosigns: [Punctuation and Prosigns](#)

'Words' that consist of all letters and numbers: [Letters Numbers](#)

A mix of letters, numbers and some punctuation: [Letters Numbers Some Punctuation](#)

Callsigns: [Callsigns](#)