

AVIATION ALPHABET

When pilots talk on the radio, they want to make sure their message is understood. Because some letters of the alphabet sound the same (such as M and N or B, C, D, E, G, P, T and V), they sometimes use this "aviation alphabet" to make sure the person to whom they are talking hears them correctly. The pilot of the Boeing 247 pictured here, for instance, would call the control tower at San Diego's Lindbergh Field by saying "Lindbergh tower, this is November-Three-Niner-Seven-Seven-Charlie." Notice the pilot said "niner" instead of "nine." Pilots do this because "nine" might sound like "five" over the radio. The number 9 is the only number that is spoken differently.



"...NOVEMBER-THREE-NINER-SEVEN-SEVEN-CHARLIE."

A	Alpha	N	November
B	Bravo	O	Oscar
C	Charlie	P	Papa
D	Delta	Q	Quebec
E	Echo	R	Romeo
F	Foxtrot	S	Sierra
G	Golf	T	Tango
H	Hotel	U	Uniform
I	India	V	Victor
J	Juliet	W	Whiskey
K	Kilo	X	X-Ray
L	Lima	Y	Yankee
M	Mike	Z	Zulu

- Can you spell your name using the aviation alphabet? Try a friend's name.
- Write a short sentence using the aviation alphabet, then read it to a partner. See if your partner can understand what you are saying.

Example: "I am hungry": India Alpha-Mike Hotel-Uniform-November-Golf-Romeo-Yankee.