

Call Signs

When transmitting over the aircraft radio, all groups of letters and aircraft call signs have to be spelled out using the phonetic alphabet. All numbers are to be spoken out digit, by, digit. For example, the number 550 would be spoken as five, five, zero.

Call signs are used all over the world. One military pilot reported that his call sign was ICE; another pilot said his name was Henry Bard and the call sign he was given was HEB.

If you were to listen to an airline scanner, you might hear the following conversation between an air traffic controller and an aircraft: "ACA, one, eight, zero, descend to flight level three seven zero." The traffic controller is saying: "Air Canada flight number 180, descend to an altitude of 37 000 feet."

Here are some airline call signs you might recognize:

Aeromexico - Aeromexico - AMX
Air Holland - Orange - AHD
Air Alaska - Alaska - ALA
American Airline - American - AAL
British Airways - Britannia - BAW
Federal Express - Express - FDX

If an aircraft's call sign is N5345R, a typical radio call might begin like this: "Edmonton Approach, Cessna November Five Three Four Five Romeo, Over..."

Create your own call sign by following the instructions on the next page.

Call Signs

My Call Sign

My first and last name: _____

My initials are: _____

(Look at the first letter in your first name and last name.)

Which words in the phonetic alphabet represent your initials?

Month I was born: _____

Date I was born (number): _____

**E.g., February - zero - eight - Bravo - Juliet which would be
spoken as: Foxtrot, zero, eight, Bravo, Juliet**

My call sign is _____ **which would be spoken as:**
