



## FROM ALFA TO ZULU

Mother Language



MARITIME ECONOMY

## PEDAGOGIC CONTENT:

- Learn the NATO phonetic alphabet
- Make it easier to spell words during the communication

## PRE-REQUISITES:

- No specific requisites

## NEW COMPETENCIES TARGETED/LEARNING

### STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO:

- Avoid miscommunications
- Learn how to use a phonetic alphabet









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## DESCRIPTION:

### PREPARATION

The teacher prints and delivers a phonetic alphabet card for each student

### IMPLEMENTATION


-  **#1:** The teacher gives an introduction about the phonetic alphabet and its history (when, why, who...) etc. Goal is to have things unambiguous and as clear as possible in the presence of radio interference or other poor audio conditions.
-  **#2:** The teacher speaks the Alphabet around the class forwards and backwards, picking letters at random. Repeat them over and over. Concentrate on the ones they find hardest, not just the ones they are sure of.
-  **#3:** The teacher speaks until they produce it automatically and instantly.
-  **#4:** The teacher spells out his/her name, and then ask students to spell out their names.
-  **#5:** The teacher selects ten random words and ask students to spell them using the phonetic alphabet.
-  **#6:** The teacher uses it as a homework or out-of-class exercise. But come back at other times for review and consolidation


Type of activity  Game, Experimental activities


Target audience  From 11 years old

Place  Classroom or outdoor activity

Material needed  NATO phonetic alphabet card

Duration of activity  Preparation: 30 minutes  
Implementation : 8 to 12 hours

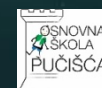
Authorship  IIS Garibaldi  
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Links  [https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO\\_phonetic\\_alphabet](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO_phonetic_alphabet)  
[https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf\\_2018\\_01/20180111\\_nato-alphabet-sign-signal.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2018_01/20180111_nato-alphabet-sign-signal.pdf)  
<https://www.offgridweb.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/NATO-alphabet-infographic.jpg>

Notes by author  None



Departament de Sostenibilitat i Medi Ambient  
Consell de Mallorca





The ability to communicate and make yourself understood can make a difference in life-threatening situations – imagine for example that you are trying to alert a search and rescue helicopter of the position of a downed pilot. To ensure clear communication, NATO uses a number of well-known formats which are in general use. NATO standardization agreements enable forces from many nations to communicate in a way that is understood by all.

Some standards can be found in everyday civilian and military life. 'Bravo Zulu', typically signalled with naval flags on ships at sea and meaning 'well done', is also commonly used in written communication by the military, for example by replying 'BZ' to an email.

### Numbers

1	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight	Nine	Zero
One ( <i>one</i> )	Two ( <i>too</i> )	Three ( <i>tree</i> )	Four ( <i>four-er</i> )	Five ( <i>ff</i> )	Six ( <i>six</i> )	Seven ( <i>seven</i> )	Eight ( <i>ait</i> )	Nine ( <i>niner</i> )	Zero ( <i>zero</i> )

### Phonetic alphabet

The NATO alphabet became effective in 1956 and, a few years later, turned into the established universal phonetic alphabet for all military, civilian and amateur radio communications.

### International Morse Code

Morse code transmits text through on-off tones, light flashes or clicks. It was widely used in the 1930s for early radio communication, before it was possible to transmit voice.

### Flaghoist communication

Ships use flags as signals to send out messages to each other. The use of flags, known as flaghoist communication, is a fast and accurate way to send information in daylight.

### Semaphore

Semaphore is a system in which a person sends information at a distance using hand-held flags – depending on the position of the flags, the message will vary. The signaller holds the flag in different positions that represent letters or numbers.

### Panel signalling

Panels are visual signals for sending simple messages to an aircraft. Using a limited code, ground forces can send messages to pilots, for example to request medical support.

<b>A</b> Alfa ( <i>ah-fah</i> )	<b>B</b> Bravo ( <i>bruh-oh</i> )	<b>C</b> Charlie ( <i>char-lee</i> )	<b>D</b> Delta ( <i>dell-tah</i> )	<b>E</b> Echo ( <i>ech-oh</i> )	<b>F</b> Foxtrot ( <i>foke-trot</i> )
<b>K</b>	<b>G</b> Golf ( <i>golf</i> )	<b>H</b> Hotel ( <i>hoh-tel</i> )	<b>I</b> India ( <i>in-dee-ah</i> )	<b>J</b> Juliett ( <i>juh-lee-ett</i> )	<b>L</b> Lima ( <i>lee-mah</i> )
<b>M</b> Mike ( <i>mike</i> )	<b>N</b> November ( <i>no-ven-ber</i> )	<b>O</b> Oscar ( <i>os-cab</i> )	<b>P</b> Papa ( <i>pah-pah</i> )	<b>Q</b> Quebec ( <i>kch-beck</i> )	<b>R</b> Romeo ( <i>rou-ne-oh</i> )
<b>S</b> Sierra ( <i>see-air-rah</i> )	<b>T</b> Tango ( <i>tang-go</i> )	<b>U</b> Uniform ( <i>yuu-nee-form</i> )	<b>V</b> Victor ( <i>vic-tah</i> )	<b>X</b> Xray ( <i>eksk-ray</i> )	<b>Z</b> Zulu ( <i>zoo-lu</i> )

More information on NATO codes, signals and standards can be found on the NATO Standardization Office (NSO) website: <http://nso.nato.int/nao/>. More on the history of the NATO phonetic alphabet: <http://www.nato.int/docu/nao/>.  
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