CW QSO Cheat Sheet

Standard QSO

Replace the placeholders with

mycall	= Your Callsign	*( )*
myrig	= Your rig	*( )*
myant	= Your antenna	*( )*
myqth	= Your QTH	*( )*
RST	= Send rst	*something like 599*
mypwr	= Your TX Power	*something like 5W*
mytemp	= Outdoor temp	*something like 12C*

Calling CQ

Find a frequency that seems to be clear.
Listen! If you don't hear anything send QRL?
Listen again and send again QRL?
If you don't hear anything call CQ
cq cq cq de *mycall mycall mycall* pse k
A OP answers - Your first turn
call de *mycall* $\overline{BT}$
gd dr op es tnx fer call $\overline{BT}$
rst *RST RST fb* $\veebar$ *qrm* $\veebar$ *qsb* $\overline{BT}$
name *myname myname* QTH *myqth myqth* $\overline{BT}$
hw?
call de *mycall* $\overline{KN}$
Now the OP is sending, make notes!
Your second turn
call de *mycall* $\overline{BT}$
ok dr frd es vy tnx fr info $\overline{BT}$
rig *myrig* pwr *mypwr*W $\overline{BT}$
ant *dipole* $\veebar$ *vertical* $\veebar$ *zepp* $\overline{BT}$
wx *sunny* $\veebar$ *cloudy* $\veebar$ *rain* temp *mytemp* C $\overline{BT}$
nw QRU $\overline{BT}$
pse qsl via bureau $\overline{BT}$
tnx fr qso es hpe cuagn 73 es gb
call de *mycall* $\overline{SK}$

Answering a CQ

Your turn after a station called CQ
call de mycall $\overline{AR}$
The OP give you some information, make notes! Your first turn:
call de *mycall* $\overline{BT}$
fb gd dr op es tnx fr rprt $\overline{BT}$
rst *RST RST fb* $\veebar$ *qrm* $\veebar$ *qsb* $\overline{BT}$
name *myname myname* QTH *myqth myqth* $\overline{BT}$
rig *myrig* pwr *mypwr*W es ant *dipole* $\veebar$ *vertical* $\veebar$ *zepp* $\overline{BT}$
wx *sunny* $\veebar$ *cloudy* $\veebar$ *rain* temp *mytemp* C $\overline{BT}$
hpe ok?
call de *mycall* $\overline{KN}$
Time to say good bye
call de mycall $\overline{BT}$
all ok dr op = QSL via bureau ok $\overline{BT}$
tnx fr QSO 73 es best dx dr op es hpe cuagn $\overline{BT}$
call de *mycall* $\overline{SK}$

Common abbreviations

agn	again	ant	antenna
bk	break in	buro	bureau
b4	before	c	yes, correct
cl	closing	condx	conditions
cpi	copy	cu	see you
dr	dear	es	and
fer	for	gd	good day
hpe	hope	hr	here
pse	please	rprt	report
rpt	repeat	sri	sorry
tnx	thanks	tu	thank you
ur	your	vy	very
wx	weather	73	best regards

Common prosigns

$\overline{AR}$	End of transmission
$\overline{AS}$	Wait, stand by for a short time
$\overline{BT}$	Separation between topics in QSO
$\overline{IMI}$	Repeat of difficult words
$\overline{SK}$	End of Work

Common procedural prosigns

DE	Used as 'From'
ES	& or and
K	Turning over
BK	Back to you
CL	Closing station
R	All received and understood
$\overline{KN}$	Turning over to a specific station

Common Q Signals

Every Q Signal can be asked or answered. Only the meaning of the basic Q Signals are listed.

QRG	Frequency
QRL	Busy, also frequency in use
QRM	Interferences from another station
QRN	Interference from static
QSB	Fading
QRO	Increase power
QRP	Decrease power
QRQ	Send faster
QRS	Send slower
QRT	Stop sending
QRU	All done, nothing more
QRV	Are you ready or I am ready
QRZ	Who is calling me?
QSL	Acknowledge receipt
QSX	Listen on *frequency*
QSY	Change frequency
QTH	Location
QTR	Time

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The activity centres for QRS, QRP, FISTS and SKCC are the best frequencies for beginners. On these frequencies you should find QSO partners for slow & accurate CW QSO's.

QRP activity centres

Band	MHz
160m	1.836
80m	3.560
40m	7.030
30m	10.106
30m	10.116
20m	14.060
17m	18.086
17m	18.096
15m	21.060
12m	24.906
10m	28.060

QRP-Clubs

DL-QRP-AG (Germany)
G-QRP Club (UK)
G-QRP Club (Germany)
QRP ARCI (International)

FISTS activity centres

Band	MHz	diff. US	diff. Asia
160m	1.818	1.808	
80m	3.558		
40m	7.028	7.058	7.026 & 7.058
30m	10.118		10.118 & 10.138
20m	14.058		
17m	18.085		
15m	21.058		21.058 & 21.138
12m	24.918		
10m	28.058		28.058 & 28.158

FISTS CW Club supports the use, preservation and education of Morse code. FISTS North America and FISTS Asia have different activity centres on selected bands, also VK & ZL on 160m at 1.808 MHz.

SKCC activity centres

Band	MHz
160m	1.820
80m	3.550
40m	7.055
30m	10.120
20m	14.050
17m	18.080
15m	21.050
12m	24.910
10m	28.050
6m	50.090

SKCC members who use bugs are encouraged to make higher speed calls 2 kHz above the calling frequencies.

SKCC members who prefer QRS (sending slowly) are encouraged to make calls 2 kHz down from the calling frequencies.

SKCC Straight Key Century Club is a group of mechanical-key CW operators. Membership is free.

QRS activity centres

Band	MHz
80m	3.555
40m	7.114 (Elmer frequency R2)
20m	14.055
15m	21.055
10m	28.055

Every Tuesday at 19:30 LT (17:30 UTC at CEST, 18:30 UTC at CET) you can hear the QRS Net on 3.556 MHz ±QRM.

International Beacons

Band	MHz
20m	14.099 - 14.101
17m	18.109 - 18.111
15m	21.149 - 21.151
12m	24.929 - 24.931
10m	28.190 - 28.225

NCDXF/IARU Beacon Network

Each beacon transmits every three minutes, day and night. This table gives the minute and second of the start of the first transmission within the hour for each beacon on each frequency. A transmission consists of the callsign of the beacon sent at 22 words per minute followed by four one-second dashes. The callsign and the first dash are sent at 100 watts. The remaining dashes are sent at 10 watts, 1 watt and 100 milliwatts.

Callsign	14.100	18.110	21.150	24.930	28.200
4U1UN	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40
VE8AT	00:10	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50
W6WX	00:20	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00
KH6WO	00:30	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10
ZL6B	00:40	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20
VK6RBP	00:50	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30
JA2IGY	01:00	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40
RR9O	01:10	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50
VR2B	01:20	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00
4S7B	01:30	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10
ZS6DN	01:40	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20
5Z4B	01:50	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30
4X6TU	02:00	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40
OH2B	02:10	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50
CS3B	02:20	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00
LU4AA	02:30	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10
OA4B	02:40	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20
YV5B	02:50	00:00	00:10	00:20	00:30

NCDXF/IARU Beacon Network

ARRL CW Code Practice

Band	MHz
160m	1.8025
80m	3.5815
40m	7.0475
20m	14.0475
17m	18.0975
15m	21.0675
10m	28.0675

Scheduled operating times and code speed