



# Ask Radioman

Answers to your questions  
pertaining to Amateur Radio and  
Amateur Radio operation

Send your questions to: [radioman@w7dk.org](mailto:radioman@w7dk.org)

Dear Radioman,

I have been a ham for about two months. The other day I was listening to the local radio club's repeater. I heard a repeater user, who obviously just arrived at his house. He told the ham he was talking to, "I just arrived at my **HOME 20**", so see you later". My question to you, Radioman, isn't this CB lingo? And isn't CB lingo frowned upon by amateur radio operators? What do you have to profess about this?

Name and Call Sign withheld by request of Julie, KG1JCS.

Dear Julie,

Yes, it is true that ham ops don't like to hear CB talk on any amateur frequency. The dislike is part of the tradition of ham radio that dates back to 1958 when the Federal Communications Commission created the Class D Citizen's Band radio service that uses frequencies from 26 to 28 MHz.

Back in those "ole days" the 10 meter ham band was made up of some of that 27 MHz that the FCC used to create the Citizen's Band. Perhaps you have noticed old HF transceivers that have 27 MHz as one of the 10 meter band selections.

When the hams who had to work hard to get a General class license lost some bandwidth to the CBers who simply had to sign the dotted line and pay a small fee to get a CB call sign, it's needless to say that those ham ops were irked.

When the Citizen's Band became a free-for-all kind of 23 channel (and later on 40 channel) chat room with all kinds of wacky lingo, the ham ops who are self policing of their bandwidth and privileges became even more disliking of the CB community.

We've all seen the Smokey and the Bandit movies, the TV show "Dukes of Hazzard", and heard the song "Convoy". These entertainment venues popularized the use of CB lingo. I am sure that you have heard the terms: "Bear", "Fly in the Sky", "Gumball Machines", and, "Kojak with a Kodak" in the media over the last 20 years. Ask your parents if you are not that old, Julie. All of this popularization of what some hams call the "Children's Band" just makes the CB lingo less desirable than ever to hear on the ham bands.

So, Julie— that's the history. But due to what is happening to ham radio as of late is creating some more friction between the THEMES and US's. The THEMES are the "new hams" who obtained their ham licenses through a one or two day seminar that teaches to the test, and with the test directly following. How could anyone fail to get a license. But, the THEMES are "new hams" who do not have any sense of the tradition of amateur radio.

The US's are the hams who think and believe that the tradition of amateur radio should be upheld and handed down from generation to generation or old Elmer to new ham op. This information and culture used to be handed down in ham radio classes that took 9 or 10 weeks plus learning the Morse code took more

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**Radioman Continued...**

and more weeks. During those long times of learning together— bonds were formed, friends were made, and the culture was passed on. Now most of this is gone because almost anyone can easily get a ham license in a weekend.

Personally, Radioman does not think that there is any chance of going back to the old way of “passing the torch of knowledge” because now-a-days everyone wants everything to happen so fast. So, Radioman says, “If you can’t beat ‘em, then join ‘em”. So, Julie, with all of this said— Radioman proposes some ways of integrating the old ham radio culture with the ham radio of the future which is predicted to be very much what the Citizen’s Band evolved into. To begin with Radioman proposes some new short cut codes.

Julie, perhaps one of the older hams that you know has mentioned the “Q” signals. They are (now, were) shortcut codes that began with the letter Q. They were used by Morse code operators to handle traffic. These evolved in ham radio with many CW operators. As time went by, some of the Q signals were adopted by hams who used AM and/or SSB voice communication. A short time later, the Q signals became useful on FM, like two meter and 70 cm repeaters.

You may have heard these Q signals: QSL means ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT and has been adopted to mean YES, QTH means LOCATION, QSY means to CHANGE FREQUENCY.

Also, I am sure that you have heard some of the Citizen’s Band “10” codes in the movies and TV shows I mentioned above. For example: 10-4 means YES, or OK; or 10-20 means LOCATION or DESTINATION; and 10-41 means CHANGE TO CHANNEL\_\_.

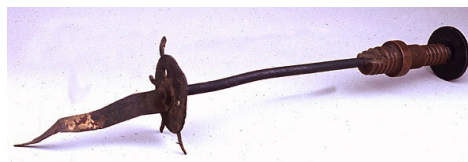
Both CB and ham codes were dual purpose. The code could make a statement or ask a question by how the users voice sounded. An example is: **QSL** means, “I understand”. However, **10-4?** Means, “Do you understand the information I just gave you”?

Radioman proposes these radio codes for the new wave of amateur radio.

| New, proposed, 10Q Signals |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Q1<br>Q1?                  | I cant hear you very well. OR Can you hear me very well?   |
| Q4<br>Q4                   | Message received. OR Did you receive that?   |
| Q6<br>Q6?                  | I am busy, please stand by. OR Are you busy now.<br>Also, The frequency is busy now. OR Is the frequency busy now? |
| Q11<br>Q11?                | You are talking too fast. OR Am I talking too fast? (Note: has nothing to do with Radio Shack)                     |
| Q20<br>Q20?                | My location or destination is ____. OR What is your location? Home20.  |
| Q27<br>Q27?                | I am moving to another frequency. OR Should we move to another frequency?  |
| Q83<br>Q83?                | I am joking with you. Laughter.<br>Is this an April Fool's joke?   |
| Q28?                       | Is there another station calling me?   |
| Q32<br>Q32?                | I need a radio check. OR Are you checking your radio?  |
| Q3<br>Q3?                  | I am finished transmitting to you.<br>Are you finished transmitting to me?   |
| Q Breaker!<br>Q Breaker?   | I want to break into your conversation.<br>Is there a breaker?   |
| Q77                        | Negative Contact.  |

Illegal CW operators can also use the Q10 codes. Sometimes ‘cut’ numbers can be used to save time. i.e. Q10 could be sent as QAT, or Q11 could be sent as QAA, and so on.

Thanks for the great question, Julie. Radioman hopes that using these new codes will meld the new wave of ham radio operators with the old way of doing business on the amateur air waves. A big welcome, new Amateur Radio Operators. Q83? Q83 Q3 Q4?



**Rettysnitch, a primitive screwdriver antenna.**