

# Q Signals

These Q signals most often need to be expressed with brevity and clarity in amateur work. (Q abbreviations take the form of questions only when each is sent followed by a question mark.)

Q	Q Signal Meaning
QRA	What is the name of your station? <i>The name of my station is _____.</i>
QRG	Will you tell me my exact frequency (or that of _____)? <i>Your exact frequency (or that of _____) is _____ kHz.</i>
QRH	Does my frequency vary? <i>Your frequency varies.</i>
QRI	How is the tone of my transmission? <i>The tone of your transmission is _____.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Good</li><li>2. Variable</li><li>3. Bad</li></ol>
QRJ	Are you receiving me badly? <i>I cannot receive you. Your signals are too weak.</i>
QRK	What is the intelligibility of my signals (or those of _____)? <i>The intelligibility of your signal (or those of _____) is _____.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Bad</li><li>2. Poor</li><li>3. Fair</li><li>4. Good</li><li>5. Excellent</li></ol>
QRL	Are you busy? <i>I am busy (or I am busy with _____). Please do not interfere.</i>
QRM	Is my transmission being interfered with? <i>Your transmission is being interfered with _____.</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Nil</li><li>2. Slightly</li><li>3. Moderately</li><li>4. Severely</li><li>5. Extremely</li></ol>

- QRN Are you troubled by static?  
*I am troubled by static \_\_\_\_\_.*
1. Nil
  2. Slightly
  3. Moderately
  4. Severely
  5. Extremely
- QRO Shall I increase power?  
*Increase power.*
- QRP Shall I decrease power?  
*Decrease power.*
- QRQ Shall I send faster?  
*Send faster (\_\_\_\_\_ WPM).*
- QRS Shall I send more slowly?  
*Send more slowly (\_\_\_\_\_ WPM).*
- QRT Shall I stop sending?  
*Stop sending.*
- QRU Have you anything for me?  
*I have nothing for you.*
- QRV Are you ready?  
*I am ready.*
- QRW Shall I inform \_\_\_\_\_ that you are calling on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz?  
*Please inform \_\_\_\_\_ that I am calling on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz.*
- QRX When will you call me again?  
*I will call you again at \_\_\_\_\_ hours (on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz).*
- QRY What is my turn?  
*Your turn is numbered \_\_\_\_\_.*
- QRZ Who is calling me?  
*You are being called by \_\_\_\_\_ (on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz).*
- QSA What is the strength of my signals (or those of \_\_\_\_\_)?  
*The strength of your signals (or those of \_\_\_\_\_) is \_\_\_\_\_.*
1. Scarcely perceptible
  2. Weak
  3. Fairly good
  4. Good
  5. Very good
- QSB Are my signals fading?  
*Your signals are fading.*
- QSD Is my keying defective?  
*Your keying is defective.*

- QSG Shall I send \_\_\_\_\_ messages at a time?  
*Send \_\_\_\_\_ messages at a time.*
- QSK Can you hear me between your signals and if so can I break in on your transmission?  
*I can hear you between my signals; break in on my transmission.*
- QSL Can you acknowledge receipt?  
*I am acknowledging receipt.*
- QSM Shall I repeat the last message which I sent you, or some previous message?  
*Repeat the last message which you sent me [or message(s) number(s) \_\_\_\_\_].*
- QSN Did you hear me (or \_\_\_\_\_) on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz?  
*I did hear you (or \_\_\_\_\_) on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz.*
- QSO Can you communicate \_\_\_\_\_ direct or by relay?  
*I can communicate with \_\_\_\_\_ direct (or by relay through \_\_\_\_\_).*
- QSP Will you relay to \_\_\_\_\_?  
*I will relay to \_\_\_\_\_.*
- QST General call preceding a message addressed to all radio amateurs and ARRL members. This is in effect "CQ ARRL."
- QSU Shall I send or reply on this frequency (or on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz)?  
*Send or reply on this frequency (or \_\_\_\_\_ kHz).*
- QSV Shall I send a series of Vs on this frequency (or on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz)?  
*Send a series of Vs on this frequency (or on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz).*
- QSW Will you send on this frequency (or on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz)?  
*I am going to send on this frequency (or on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz).*
- QSX Will you listen to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz?  
*I am listening to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz.*
- QSY Shall I change to transmission on another frequency?  
*Change to transmission on another frequency (or on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz).*
- QSZ Shall I send each word or group more than once?  
*Send each word or group twice (or \_\_\_\_\_ times).*
- QTA Shall I cancel message number \_\_\_\_\_?  
*Cancel message number \_\_\_\_\_.*
- QTB Do you agree with my counting of words?  
*I do not agree with your counting of words. I will repeat the first letter or digit of each word or group.*
- QTC How many messages have you to send?  
*I have \_\_\_\_\_ messages for you (or for \_\_\_\_\_).*
- QTH What is your location?  
*My location is \_\_\_\_\_.*
- QTR What is the correct time?  
*The correct time is \_\_\_\_\_.*

Credit to: [http://bclingan.org/mainpage\\_000012.htm](http://bclingan.org/mainpage_000012.htm)

QTV Shall I stand guard for you?  
*Stand guard for me.*

QTX Will you keep your station open for further communication with me?  
*Keep your station open for me.*

QUA Have you news of \_\_\_\_\_?  
*I have news of \_\_\_\_\_.*

Credit to: [http://bclingan.org/mainpage\\_000012.htm](http://bclingan.org/mainpage_000012.htm)

## Common Ham Radio Q Codes by WB7C

Q signals in the list above came from the web site credited in the header of the document.

Here I will present some of the more common signals as we use them in the ham bands on CW.

### *Some of the common codes—Establishing communication*

*On voice, we will ask, "Is the frequency in use?" before we assume it is actually a clear frequency. Or we will speak up and advise someone that just moved in on us that "The frequency is in use."*

*On CW, we adapt "Are you busy?" and "I am busy" to meet the same ends..*

**QRL?** = Is the frequency in use?      **QRL** = The frequency is busy.

Having just called CQ, I missed the station callsign of who I thought was calling me.

**QRZ?** = Who is calling me?      Proper response is to respond with your call sign ONLY if you called in the first place. "QRZ?" is NOT "CQ".

### *Some of the common codes—Band conditions*

**QRM** is interference from other signals on the band, whereas **QRN** is all about noise and static.

**QSB** is about fading. The previous list contains a choice of numbers to represent severity of these three conditions.

### *Some of the common codes—Communications in progress*

**QRT** — The typical use of "QRT" is if someone must get off the radio and do something else.

**QRS** — Every newcomer to CW is having to ask, "PSE QRS" at least once. Brand new with no practical experience, the speed is not quite there yet. Don't be afraid to use it.

**QRQ** is not nearly as common, asking for faster speed.

**QRO** often implies a higher than 5 watt transmitter while **QRP** is 5 watts or less: I am QRP with 3 W.

**QSL** not only acknowledges receipt of a message as outlined in the earlier list, it also refers to exchanging confirmation postcards (QSL Card) through the mail, or "eQSL" cards via electronic means. ARRL's Logbook Of The World (LOTW) is but one e- option.

**QSO** is the logged contact that an exchange of QSL cards will confirm for such awards as Worked All States and others.

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