



GET

ON THE AIR

BEGINNERS CAROUSEL

MORSE PRACTICE PAGE GUIDE

VERSION 1.0



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REVISION HIGHLIGHTS:

Version 1.0

- Initial publication.
- Moves guidance from the Student and Instructor Guide.



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

REVISION HIGHLIGHTS:	2
TABLE OF CONTENTS:	3
INTRODUCTION.....	4
PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE	4
LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND SUPPORTING EXERCISES	6
CHARACTER SOUND FAMILIARITY:.....	6
CHARACTER RECOGNITION:.....	7
SHORT-WORD CHARACTER FLOW:	8
TIME TO RECOGNIZE (TTR):.....	9
INSTANT FLOW RECOVERY (IFR):	11
COPYING IN CONTEXT:.....	12
SENDING PRACTICE:.....	13
ENDURANCE:.....	14
CLOSING NOTES:.....	15
MORSE PRACTICE PAGE USERS GUIDE:.....	15



INTRODUCTION

The Beginners Carousel (BC) is where students first establish the foundation of Morse code fluency: character recognition and short-word flow. Progress at this stage depends not only on classroom instruction but also on consistent, purposeful practice that builds strong familiarity with character sounds and leads to confident recognition.

The MPP is a valuable resource for BC students. When used alongside class instruction and practice partners, it offers a structured way to strengthen recognition skills, reinforce what is learned in class, and begin developing the flow necessary for future conversational copying.

Yet many students struggle to know how to use the MPP effectively. Common questions include: Which exercises should I do? How much should I practice? How will I know when I'm ready to move on?

This guide is designed to answer those questions by providing a clear roadmap that directly ties MPP practice to the learning objectives of the BC - ensuring students practice with purpose and confidence.

PURPOSE OF THIS GUIDE

This guide is designed to:

- Provide a clear roadmap for using the MPP while attending BC1, BC2, and BC3.
- Align practice objectives with each stage of the BC.
- Offer a framework that allows instructors to assign practice effectively and enables students to track their own progress with confidence.

Each MPP exercise is organized around one or more of the following **Beginner learning objectives**:

- **Character Sound Familiarity** – Developing an instant, instinctive awareness of how each character *sounds* as a unique acoustic pattern. This early ear-training lays the groundwork for fast, effortless recognition.
- **Character Recognition** – Mastering all 44 letters, numbers, punctuation, and prosigns as distinct sound units that can be recalled quickly and reliably.



- **Short-Word Character Flow** – Transitioning from copying isolated characters to recognizing and processing short sequences, helping students hear how characters combine into simple words.
- **Time To Recognize (TTR)** – Reducing recognition time to allow smoother, more fluid copying and to support higher reception rates without overwhelm.
- **Instant Flow Recovery (IFR)** – Accepting that misses are natural; the goal is to ignore them and immediately return to the stream, preventing backward focus and protecting momentum.
- **Copying in Context** – Using simple phrases to connect characters with meaning and begin preparing for conversational copy.
- **Sending Practice** – Developing rhythm, accuracy, and consistency by practicing against a standard. Students learn to send clean, properly timed characters and words, reinforcing recognition skills and building the muscle memory essential for fluent two-way communication.
- **Endurance** – Building the ability to sustain attention, focus, and copy accuracy over longer practice sessions. Endurance reduces fatigue, increases resilience, and prepares students for real-world operating conditions where concentration must be maintained beyond short drills.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES AND SUPPORTING EXERCISES

CHARACTER SOUND FAMILIARITY:

Objective:

Develop such strong familiarity with each character that it feels natural and effortless. The goal is to form an instant, instinctive awareness of how each character *sounds* as a unique acoustic pattern. This early ear-training lays the foundation for rapid, accurate recognition later on.

Practice Approach:

- At the start of each week, focus on the new set of characters until they begin to “click.”
- This may take as little as 5 minutes in a single session or several short sessions spread over a few days.
- Use the **Character Familiarity** and **Character Recognition** exercises until you can recognize each new character about **80% of the time** - ideally *saying the character out loud before the computer does*.
- Once this level is reached, move on to the **accuracy-building exercises** in the next section to reinforce recognition and strengthen retention.

MPP Exercises:

Use the following links to jump directly into pre-configured exercises on the MPP:

BC1 Character Familiarity

- [REA - Familiarity](#)
- [TIN – Familiarity](#)
- [PSG – Familiarity](#)
- [LCD – Familiarity](#)
- [HOF – Familiarity](#)
- [UWB – Familiarity](#)

BC2 Character Familiarity

- [KMY – Familiarity](#)
- [59. - Familiarity](#)
- [QXV – Familiarity](#)
- [73? – Familiarity](#)
- [<AR><SK><BT> - Familiarity](#)
- [16. – Familiarity](#)
- [ZJ/ - Familiarity](#)
- [28BK – Familiarity](#)
- [40 – Familiarity](#)



CHARACTER RECOGNITION:

Objective:

Master all 44 letters, numbers, and prosigns as distinct sound units that can be recalled quickly and reliably.

Practice Approach:

- For each new week's characters, dedicate as much time as needed to move from simple familiarity to reliable recognition.
- This may require only 5 minutes in a single session, or multiple short sessions spread over a few days.
- Use the **Character Familiarity** and **Character Recognition** exercises until you can recognize the characters about **80% of the time**, ideally *saying the character out loud before the computer does*.
- Once you reach this benchmark, continue with the **accuracy-building exercises** in the next section to reinforce consistency and speed.

MPP Exercises:

Use the following links to access pre-configured practice sessions on the MPP:

BC1

- [REA – Character Recognition](#)
- [TIN – Character Recognition](#)
- [PSG – Character Recognition](#)
- [LCD – Character Recognition](#)
- [HOF – Character Recognition](#)
- [UWB – Character Recognition](#)

BC2

- [KMY – Character Recognition](#)
- [59, - Character Recognition](#)
- [QXV – Character Recognition](#)
- [73? – Character Recognition](#)
- [<AR><SK><BT> - Character Recognition](#)
- [16. – Character Recognition](#)
- [ZJ/ - Character Recognition](#)
- [28BK – Character Recognition](#)
- [40 – Character Recognition](#)

SHORT-WORD CHARACTER FLOW:

Objective:

Transition from copying isolated characters to recognizing and processing short sequences, training your ear to hear how characters combine into simple words.

Practice Approach:

- The key is to **let go of misses quickly** and stay with the flow.
- Accuracy will come with repetition, but the immediate goal is to process sequences without getting stuck.
- “Missing fast” is valuable practice - it keeps you engaged in the stream and builds the habit of recovering instantly.

MPP Exercises:

Use the following links to access pre-configured practice sessions on the MPP:

BC1

- [REA - Short Word Character Recognition](#)
- [TIN - Short Word Character Recognition](#)
- [PSG - Short Word Character Recognition](#)
- [LCD - Short Word Character Recognition](#)
- [HOF - Short Word Character Recognition](#)
- [UWB - Short Word Character Recognition](#)

BC2

- [KMY - Short Word Character Recognition](#)
- [QXV - Short Word Character Recognition](#)
- [ZJ/ - Short Word Character Recognition](#)

TIME TO RECOGNIZE (TTR):

Objective:

Reduce the time it takes to recognize each character, allowing smoother, more fluid copying and supporting higher reception rates without becoming overwhelmed.

TTR captures the essence of progress. Improvement is defined by reducing TTR through consistent practice and exposure. It does not imply instantaneous recognition or perfection - instead, it highlights measurable improvement and the transition toward automaticity: when the sound is the character.

TTR is a way to highlight how incremental improvement carries real value. Recognition time shrinks with practice, not as something to measure, chase, or compare. The real goal is simply to reduce effort and increase flow until recognition happens naturally.

Practice Approach:

- The goal of TTR exercises is to recognize characters **quickly, accurately, and with less mental effort**.
- This exercise will also help let go of characters when recognition is not fast enough.
- Expect to copy about **two-thirds of the characters** during this exercise. Missing some is normal and part of the training.
- If you are consistently copying more than **80%**, adjust the settings to increase the challenge:
 - On the **MPP**, under **More Settings**, decrease the **Delay Before** setting to remain in the “learning zone” of recognizing about two-thirds of the characters. Don’t be afraid to reduce it as low as 0.300 seconds.
 - Under the **Lesson** column, select all of the characters you have studied so far.
 - Occasionally, adjust the Character Speed upward to 18 WPM or even as high as 24 WPM to listen to the characters’ different acoustic sound as the character speed increases. However, the true measure of proficiency is how quickly recognition of the characters as defined by the **Delay Before** setting.
- Over time, this will train your brain to shorten recognition time while maintaining flow, making higher speeds more manageable.



MPP Exercises:

Use the following links to access pre-configured **TTR** practice sessions on the MPP:

BC1

- [REA – TTR](#)
- [TIN – TTR](#)
- [PSG – TTR](#)
- [LCD – TTR](#)
- [HOF – TTR](#)
- [UWB – TTR](#)

BC2

- [KMY – TTR](#)
- [59. - TTR](#)
- [QXV – TTR](#)
- [73? – TTR](#)
- [<AR><SK><BT> - TTR](#)
- [16. – TTR](#)
- [ZJ/ - TTR](#)
- [28BK – TTR](#)
- [40 – TTR](#)

INSTANT FLOW RECOVERY (IFR):

Accepting that misses are natural; the goal is to ignore them and immediately return to the stream, preventing backward focus and protecting momentum.

MPP:

Using the following rich links, you may jump directly to the MPP already set up for these exercises:

BC1

- [REA - IFR](#)
- [TIN - IFR](#)
- [PSG - IFR](#)
- [LCD - IFR](#)
- [HOF - IFR](#)
- [UWB - IFR](#)

BC2

- [KMY - IFR](#)
- [QXV - IFR](#)
- [ZJ/ - IFR](#)

COPYING IN CONTEXT:

Using simple phrases to connect characters with meaning and begin preparing for conversational copy.

MPP:

Using the following rich links, you may jump directly to the MPP already set up for these exercises:

BC1

- [REA - Context](#)
- [TIN - Context](#)
- [PSG - Context](#)
- [LCD - Context](#)
- [HOF - Context](#)
- [UWB - Context](#)

BC2

- [KMY - Context](#)
- [QXV - Context](#)
- [ZJ/ - Context](#)



SENDING PRACTICE:

Objective:

Reinforce recognition skills by developing rhythm, accuracy, and consistency in sending. Practicing against a standard helps students send clean, properly timed characters and words, building the muscle memory essential for fluent two-way communication.

Practice Approach:

- Listen to each character as it is sent, and immediately send it yourself before the next set begins.
- Focus on the *sound and feel* of the character, not the individual dits and dahs.
- Allow your hand to send the character naturally—avoid overthinking or “building” the symbol consciously.
- Consistency and rhythm are more important than perfection; clean, steady sending supports both recognition and conversational fluency.

MPP Exercises:

Use the following links to access pre-configured **Sending Practice** sessions on the MPP:

BC1

- [REA – Sending Practice](#)
- [TIN – Sending Practice](#)
- [PSG – Sending Practice](#)
- [LCD – Sending Practice](#)
- [HOF – Sending Practice](#)
- [UWB – Sending Practice](#)

BC2

- [KMY – Sending Practice](#)
- [59, - Sending Practice](#)
- [QXV – Sending Practice](#)
- [73? – Sending Practice](#)
- [<AR><SK><BT> - Sending Practice](#)
- [16. – Sending Practice](#)
- [ZJ/ - Sending Practice](#)
- [28BK – Sending Practice](#)
- [40 – Sending Practice](#)

ENDURANCE:

Objective:

Build the ability to sustain attention, focus, and copy accuracy over longer practice sessions. Endurance training reduces fatigue, increases resilience, and prepares you for real-world operating conditions where concentration must be maintained beyond short drills or contests.

Practice Approach:

- The goal of endurance practice is not perfection, but **sustained performance over time**.
- Expect that your accuracy may dip slightly during longer runs - that's normal and part of building stamina.
- Focus on staying engaged and recovering quickly from misses, rather than dwelling on errors.

MPP Exercises:

Use the following links to access pre-configured **Endurance practice** sessions on the MPP:

BC1

- [REA – Endurance](#)
- [TIN – Endurance](#)
- [PSG – Endurance](#)
- [LCD – Endurance](#)
- [HOF – Endurance](#)
- [UWB - Endurance](#)

BC2

- [KMY – Endurance](#)
- [59. - Endurance](#)
- [QXV – Endurance](#)
- [73? – Endurance](#)
- [<AR><SK><BT> - Endurance](#)
- [16. – Endurance](#)
- [ZJ/ - Endurance](#)
- [28BK – Endurance](#)
- [40 – Endurance](#)



CLOSING NOTES:

The **MPP** is most effective when it is:

- Used **daily** in short, focused sessions (10–20 minutes).
- Kept in step with class objectives (avoid the temptation to skip ahead too quickly).
- Combined with **live practice** opportunities, such as Guided & Open Practice sessions or peer QSOs.

By following this guide, BC students can make steady, measurable progress - from single-character recognition, to short-word flow, and ultimately toward BC3 readiness for getting on the air. With consistency and purpose, each practice session builds the foundation for lasting Morse code fluency.

MORSE PRACTICE PAGE USERS GUIDE:

May be downloaded [here](#).