



Aviation Alphabet

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Communication and safety are important in aviation. The international Aviation Alphabet was created to help pilots and air traffic controllers understand each other. Each letter is tied to a word to identify aircraft and airport taxiways.

Using this phonetic alphabet is for optimal safety and avoids mistakes caused by familiar sounding letters. For example, the letters E and T and M and N can be mistaken for each other. Here is the Aviation Alphabet:

A – Alpha	N – November
B – Bravo	O – Oscar
C – Charlie	P - Papa
D – Delta	Q – Quebec
E – Echo	R – Romeo
F – Foxtrot	S – Sierra
G – Golf	T – Tango
H – Hotel	U – Uniform
I – India	V – Victor
J – Juliet	W - Whiskey
K – Kilo	X – X-ray
L – Lima	Y – Yankee
M - Mike	Z – Zulu

Now, let's go through an example of how the Aviation Alphabet is used at an airport.

Airplane pilot with identifying tail number N1DC:

“Phoenix Tower, November One Delta Charlie ready for takeoff.”

Phoenix Air Traffic Control:

“November One Delta Charlie taxi via taxiway Sierra and hold short Runway 8-26.”