

TRADURRE IN ITALIANO IL TESTO SEGUENTE:

Morse Code

Morse code was invented by an American called Samuel Finley Breese Morse, (1791-1872). He was not only an inventor but also a famous painter.

Before the invention of the telegraph, most messages that had to be sent over long distances were carried by messengers who memorized them or carried them in writing. These messages could be delivered no faster than the fastest horse.

After becoming interested in electricity in 1827, Samuel invented a telegraph system which was the first device for sending messages using electricity. Telegraph messages were sent by tapping out a special code for each letter in the form of long and short signals. Short signals are referred to as “dits” (represented as dots). Long signals are referred to as “dahs” (represented as dashes). The code was converted into electrical impulses and sent over telegraph wires. A telegraph receiver on the other end of the wire converted the impulses back into to dots and dashes, and decoded the message. Morse’s original code was not quite the same as the one in use today as it included pauses as well as “dahs” and “dits”. However, a conference in Berlin in 1851 established an international version, which is shown below:

A	.-.-	B	-...-	C	-.-.-	D	-.-	E	.-	F	..--	G	---.	H	I	..
J	.-.-.-	K	-.-	L	.-.-.-	M	---	N	-.-	O	---	P	---.-	Q	---.-	R	.-.
S	...-	T	-	U	...-	V	...-	W	.-.-	X	-.--	Y	-.--	Z	---		

The most well-known signal sent using Morse Code is: “... — — — ...” and is the distress signal “SOS”.

Morse code requires the time between “dits” and “dahs”, between letters, and between words to be as accurate as possible: a “Dit” takes 1 unit of time, a “Dah” takes 3 units of time, the pause between letters takes 3 units of time, and between words 7 units of time.

The speed at which a message is sent in Morse code is normally given in words per minute (WPM). An experienced Morse code operator can send and receive messages at a rate of 20-30 WPM. The word “Paris” is used as the length of a standard word.

One of Morse’s aims was to keep the code as short as possible, which meant the commonest letters should have the shortest codes. So he went to his local newspaper. In those days printers made their papers by putting together individual letters (type) into a block, then covering the block with ink and pressing paper on the top. The printers kept the letters (type) in cases with each letter kept in a separate compartment. Of course, they had many more of some letters than others because they knew they needed more when they created a page of print. Morse simply counted the number of pieces of type for each letter. He found that there were more e’s than any other letter and so he gave “e” the shortest code, “dit”.

TRADURRE IN INGLESE LE FRASI SEGUENTI:

1. Prima dell’invenzione del telegrafo la trasmissione dei messaggi era molto lenta.
2. Quanti punti e linee ci vogliono per scrivere SOS?
3. E’ molto importante che i tempi di punti, linee e pause siano molto accurati.
4. Morse voleva rendere il codice più veloce possibile.
5. “E” è la lettera più comune in un testo inglese. Qual è la lettera più comune in italiano?