

Learn Morse Code

There are different methods to learn morse code, the method described here is aimed at helping the radio amateur pass the NTC morse code examination.

A reminder, the NTC morse code exam gauges your ability to copy and decode Morse code at 5 wpm, letters A-Z only (no numbers, no punctuations, no sending morse code).

There is no easy way to learn morse code, it takes time, patience and regular practice, it is better to learn 15 minutes a day rather than 2 hours on the same day each week.

To help memorize the alphabet, this learning method uses cue cards, and alphabet is divided into groups A_E, F_J, K_O, P_T and U_Z

The user progresses at their own pace by memorizing a group and when confident of having memorized that group moving to the next group, also recalling the previous groups before a new group is memorized until all the morse code alphabet has been memorized.

This way of learning morse code using cue cards may seem boring but the user will learn morse code in a semi-random way.

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

— Pronounced as "dah"
● Pronounced as "di"
Pronounced as "dit" when ● at the end of a cw symbol E pronounced as a "dit"

● ● ● ● di di di dit
— — ● dah dah dit
● ● — ● di di dah dit
● ● ● — di di di dah

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When saying the morse code symbols it is better to say dot as di and dash as dah. Dash dot dash (K) is said as dah di dah and when di is at the end of the morse code letter it is pronounced as dit, examples dah dah di dit (Z), di dah dit (R) and dit (E).

To use the cue cards, the cue card software has to be downloaded and installed.

See LMC 7. Download for the links to download CueCard

See 4. Installing CueCard

Using cue cards, the alphabet letters have been arranged in groups within a file.

1. A _ E 2. F _ J 3. A _ J 4. K _ O 5. A _ O 6. P _ T 7. A _ T 8. U _ Z and 9. A _ Z.



The user will notice that after memorizing group 1. A_E then group 2. F_J.....

Group 3. A_J combines 1. and 2 and after memorizing group 4. K_O.....

Group 5. A_O combines 1, 2, and 4 and after memorizing group 6. P_T....

Group 7. A_T combines 1, 2, 4 and 6 and after memorizing group 8 U_Z....

Group 9. A_Z combines 1, 2, 4, 6 and 8.

This allows the previous memorized groups to be recalled, learning cw in a semi random way.

One way to learn cw is to memorise the table opposite

A	• —
B	— • • •
C	— • — •
D	— • •
E	•

Then cover the morse symbols and guess the morse symbol associated with each letter.

Do the same by covering the letters and guess the letter associated with each morse symbol.

Having memorised the table we can start and use the cue cards for A_E.

After A_E has been memorized and the cue card software has been installed, use the Cuecard desktop icon / File / Open and click on the Cuecard file to open.



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Example using 1.A_E

Open 1.A_E file

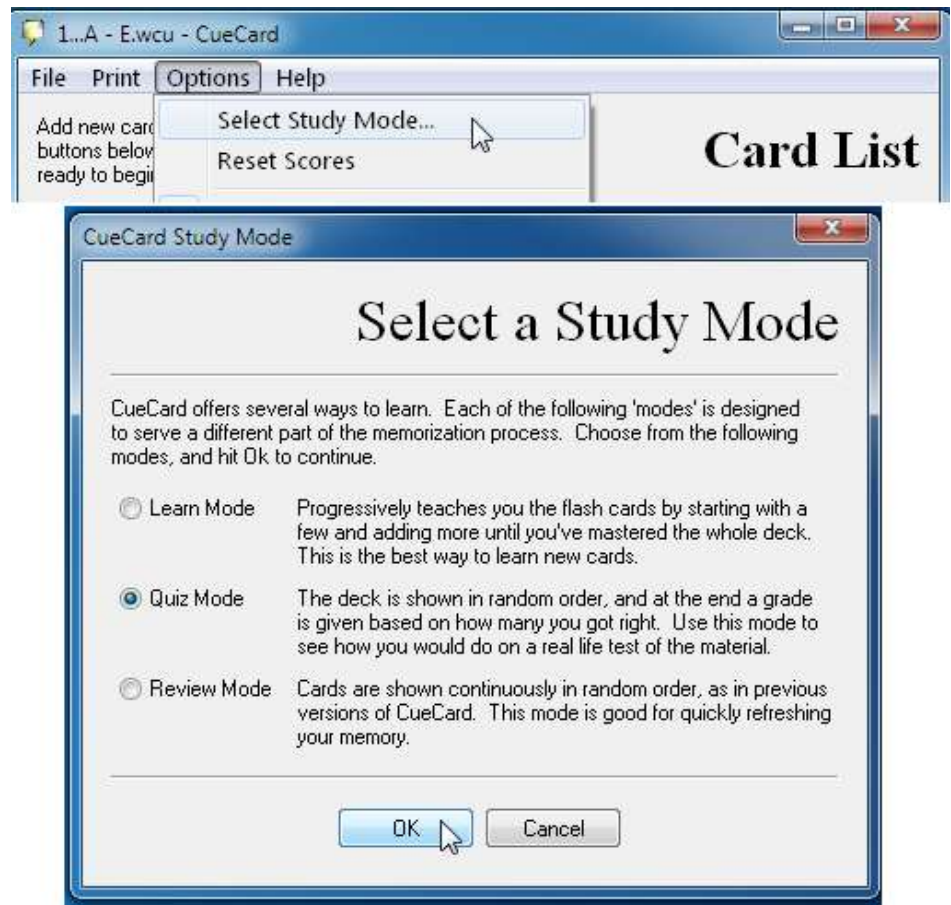


Select: Options

Select Study Mode

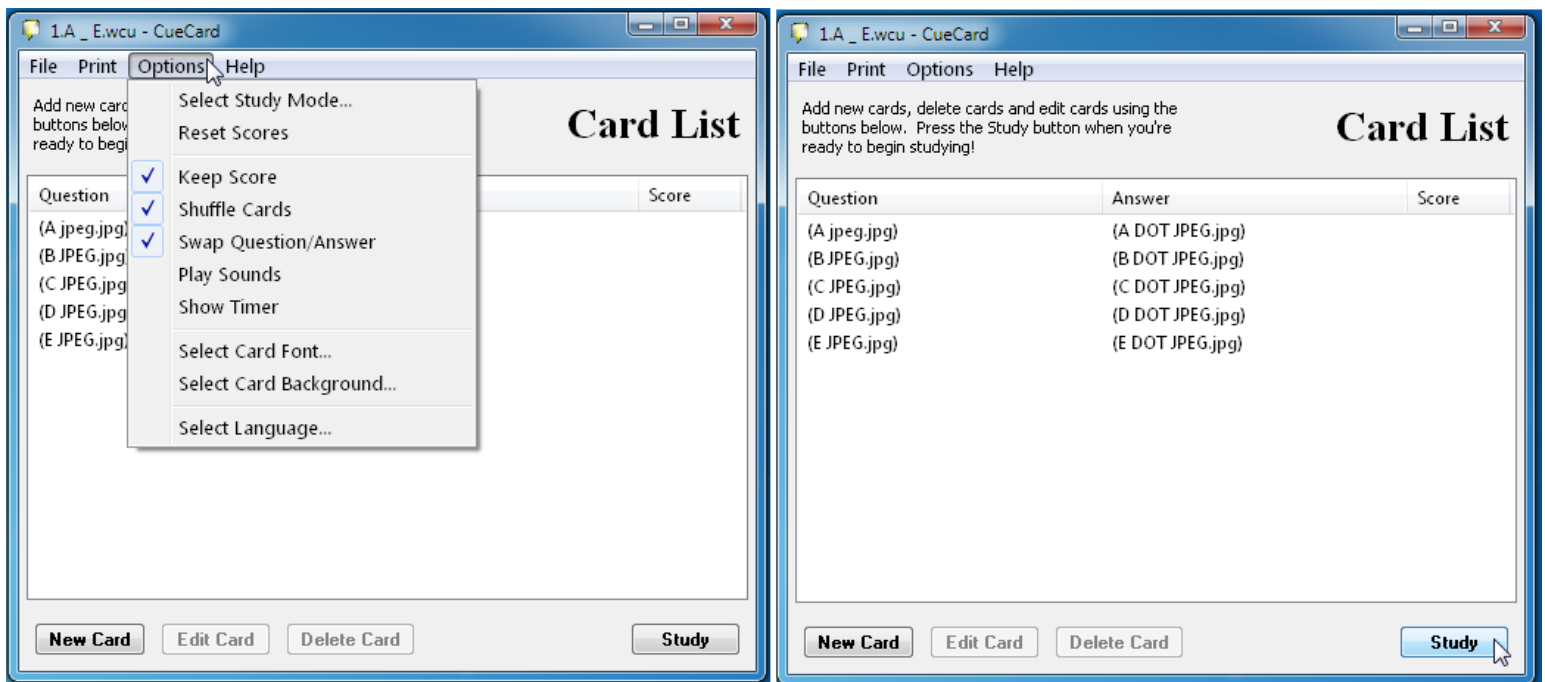
Quiz Mode

OK

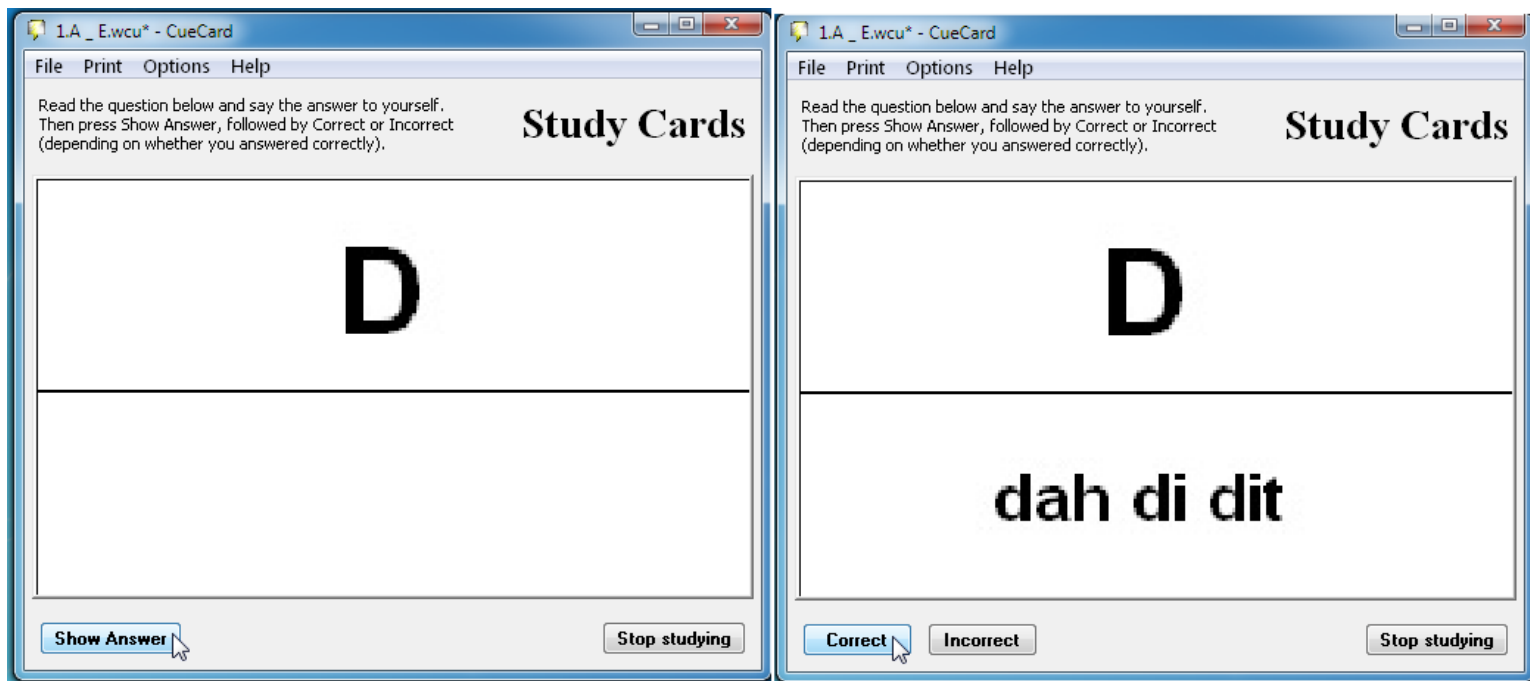


Play around with any of the Options such as Shuffle Cards, Swap Question / Answer and Keep Scores by ticking or unticking the boxes. Click Study.

Same with Study Mode.

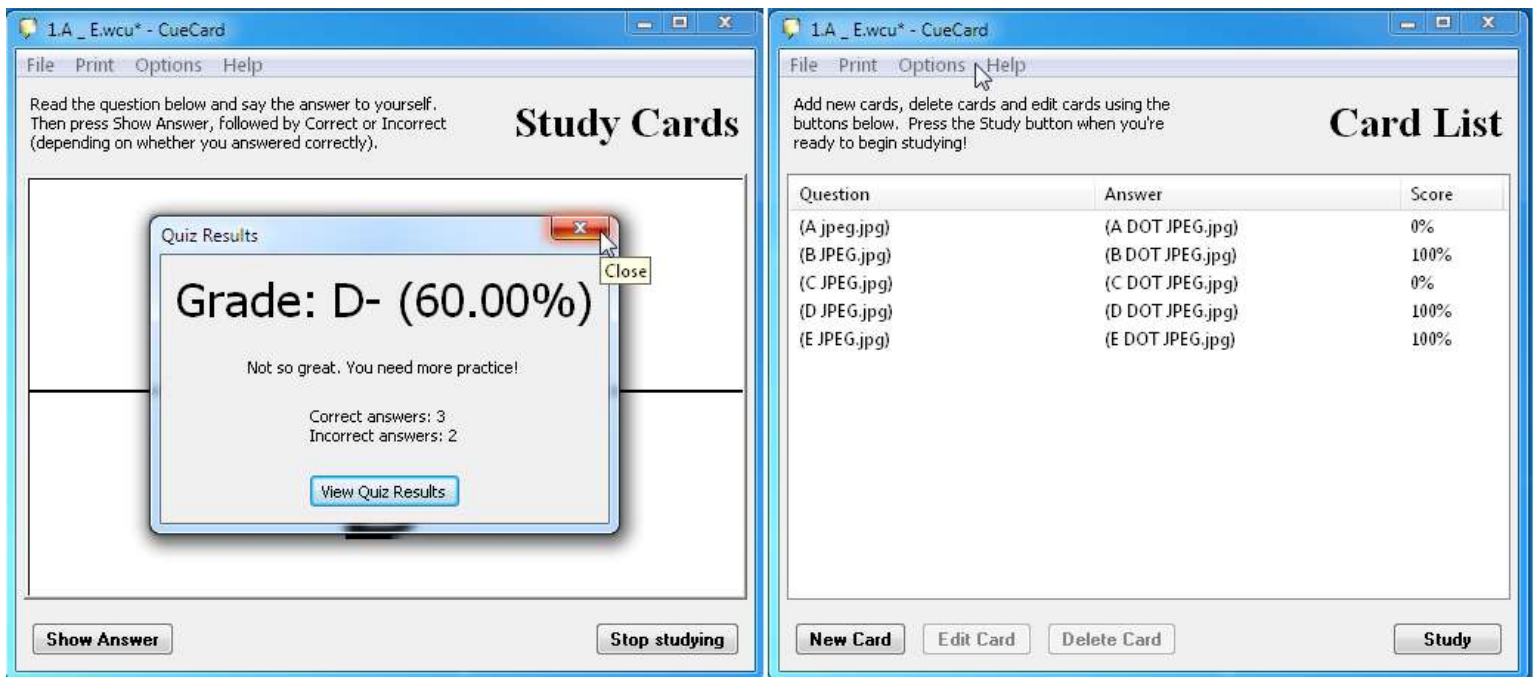


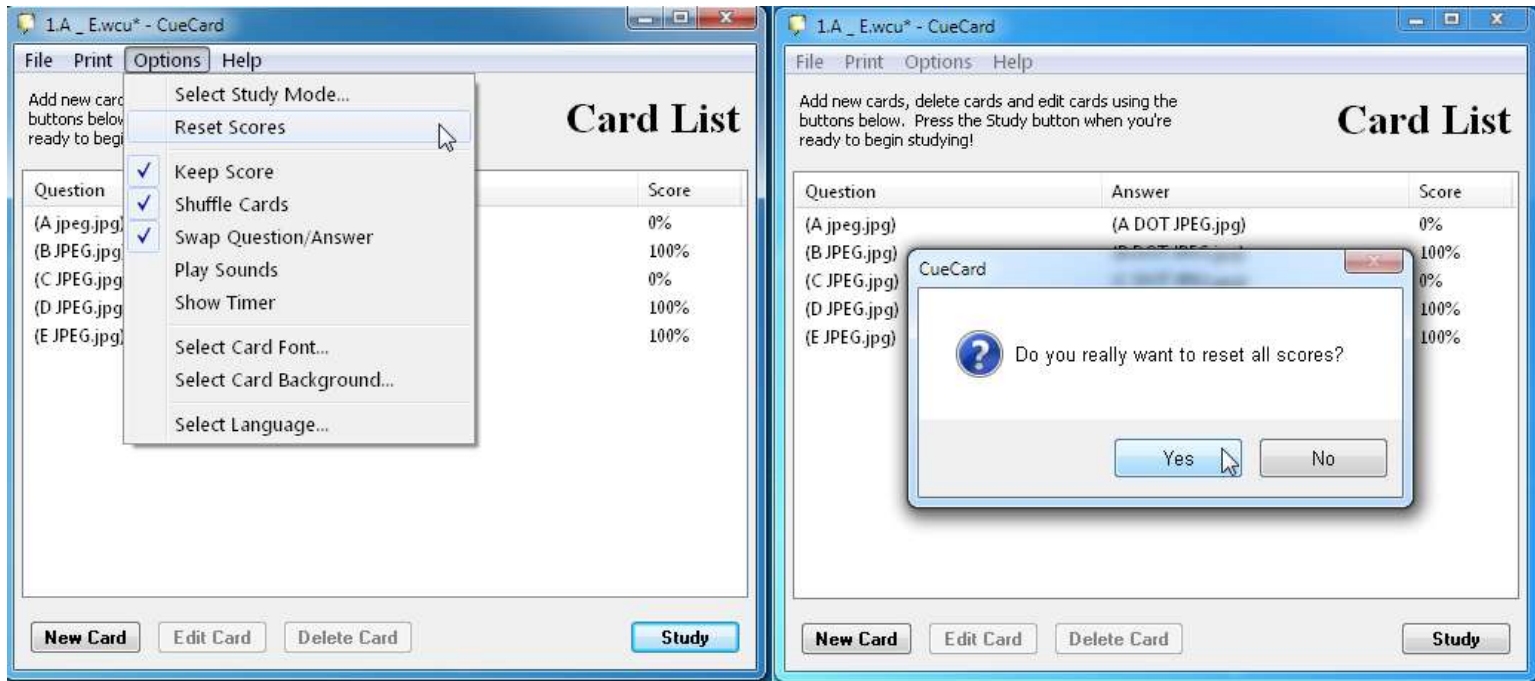
Read the question below and say the answer to yourself, then press Show Answer, followed by Correct or Incorrect, press either Correct or Incorrect.



After going through the file, selecting Correct or Incorrect, the user will get a Grade, to view the results click on X (close) then Options, click Reset Scores.

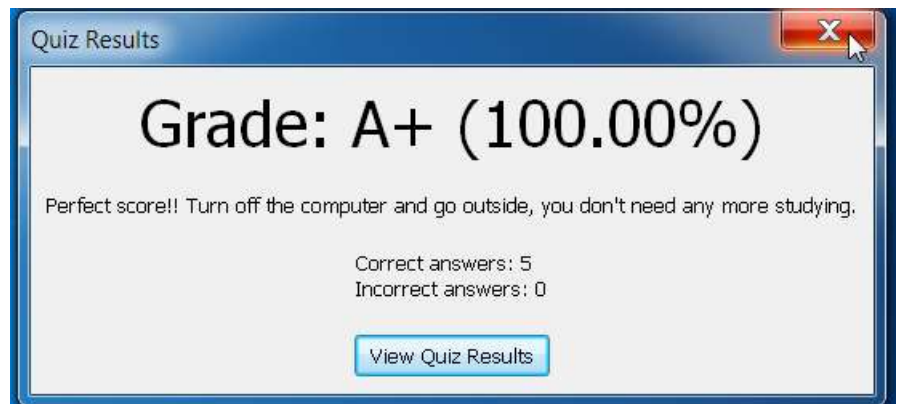
Do you really want to reset all scores ? click Yes. Repeat the learning by clicking Study.



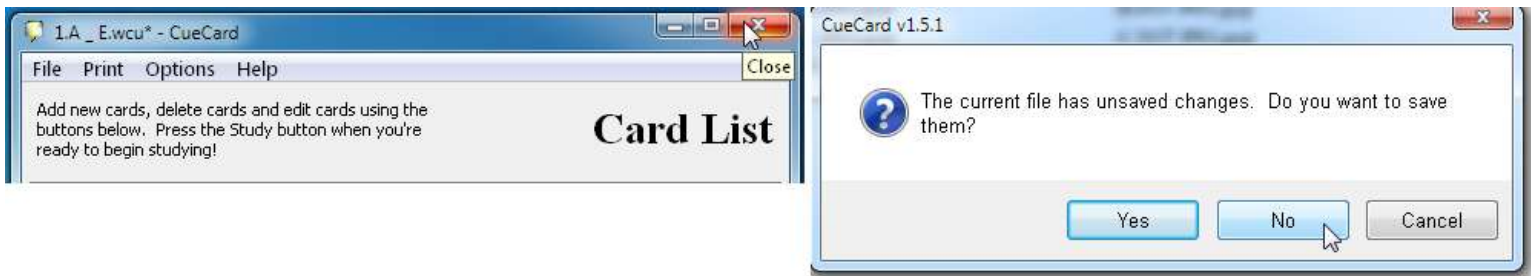


To repeat the file click on Study.

Keep repeating until the opposite grade is given, do this a few times and when confident move to the next file after 1. that would be 2. then 3. etc. The alphabet and cue card file are both memorized the same way as file1. A_E



To close the software click X then click No

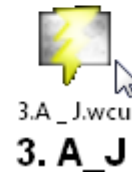
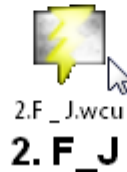


Having got a A+ Grade a few times after memorizing A_E, we can go to F_J

F	• • — •
G	— — •
H	• • • •
I	• •
J	• — — —

We can now memorise the opposite table like we did when we memorised A_E.

When confident we can go to the 2.F_J cue cards



Click the 2.F_J file and memorize the same way as A_E until you receive A Grade + score, repeat a few times and now we can move to 3.A_J.

The 3.A_J file combines 1.A_E and 2.F_J recalling what has been previously memorized and memorized the same way as A_E until you receive A Grade + score.

Do this a few times receiving the A Grade+ score and now to memorizing K_O

K	— • —
L	• — • •
M	— —
N	— •
O	— — —

We can now memorise the opposite table like we did when we memorised A_E

When confident we can go to the 4.K_O cue cards

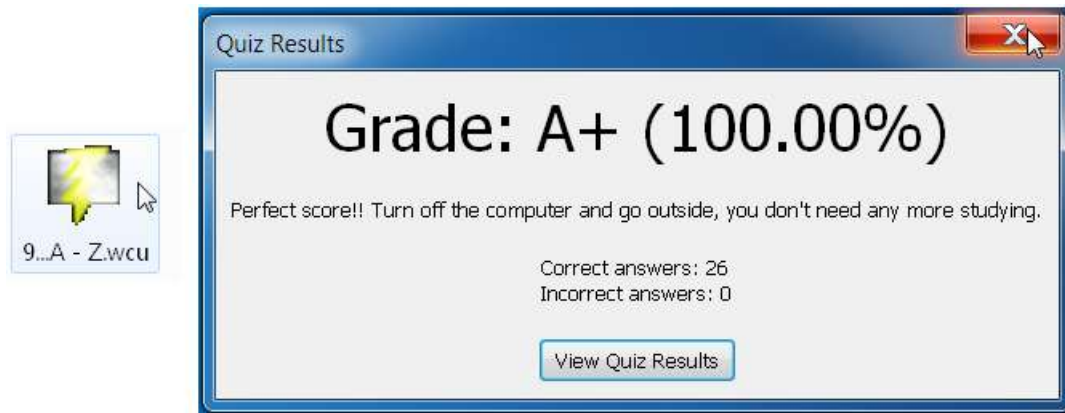


Click the 4.K_O file and memorize the same way as A_E until you receive A Grade + score, repeat a few times and now we can move to 5.A_O.

The 5.A_O file combines 1.A_E , 2.F_J and 4.K_O recalling what has been previously memorized and memorized the same way as A_E until you receive A Grade + score.

Learning the remaining morse code alphabet groups 6. P_T and 8. U_Z and using the recall groups 7.A_T and 9.A_Z is the same as described above.

This way the user progresses through the alphabet at their own pace while re calling the previously memorized groups until group 9.A_Z is reached. Repeat this group a few times



After having memorized the morse code alphabet we can read newspapers, billboards and car licence plates etc in morse.

The next step is listening to cw being sent and writing down the cw being received.

Having first memorized the morse code, there are free morse training software which can be downloaded and set up to send mixed 5 letter groups at 5 wpm or lower including.

Just Learn Morse Code and MorseCat.20 links are included in 7.Download.

Refrain from sending cw until proficient at receiving morse code, for the NTC exam that will be above the 5 wpm.

Before taking the NTC 5 wpm cw exam, practice receiving morse code at say 6 wpm

See 3.NTC Morse Code Exam

There could be errors, any problems try uninstalling and reinstalling CueCard.

If this method of learning morse code is found unsuitable, look at other methods to learn morse code, there are also learn morse code online websites.

73 de John 4F3EW / GM4DKO 14 December 2022

Note: As this article is about passing the NTC morse code examination numbers are not Included, using cue cards numbers can be added by the user.