

CALL SIGNS

Actual call signs could be: K1N, K1AA, AB2A, AH0Y, WM2B, KN0W, W1ND, WH0M, N1ECE, AB6KP, N0BDY, WZ8EDJ, W1SE, K9LVR, etc. It must start with one or two letters (A, K, N, or W), then one number, followed by one, two, or three letters. As a Technician your license will end with no less than three letters.

You will get your FCC assigned call sign. I will be whatever comes next in the list. After you have a call sign, you can apply for a vanity call sign and get your choice (within FCC guidelines) of letters and numbers. I suggest keeping the number of where you were first licensed.

Anyone can receive radio transmissions. But you must have a license to be able to transmit.

FREQUENCIES AND WAVELENGTHS

435.000 MHz is in the 70 centimeter band. That means the radio wavelength is about 0.7 meters long. This is UHF.

144.500 MHz is in the 2 Meter band. That means the radio wavelength is about 2 meters long. This is VHF.

3.850 MHz is in the 80 Meter band. That means the radio wavelength is about 80 meters long. This is HF.

To get a rough idea what band a frequency is in you can calculate it out. Clear the calculator, and then enter $300 \div 145 = 2.0689\dots$

Any frequency in the 2 Meter band will calculate out to somewhere between 2.082 and 2.027 which rounds to 2. Not all frequencies calculate out this clearly but most of the choices on the test are very obvious as to what band they are. You can also calculate the other way around. Enter $300 \div 2 = 1.5$ MHz which is close to the 144-148 range of the 2 Meter band.

Not all frequencies are open to Amateur Radio Operators. Some frequency ranges are allocated to government, military, and commercial.

A radio wave is an electromagnetic force. It has electrical and magnetic properties. High exposure can be dangerous.

