

Term	Description
AM	Amplitude Modulation. Method of combining a radio signal with a carrier. The signal changes the amplitude (height) of the carrier's waveform
Balun	Device that couples a balanced and unbalanced feeder / antennas. For example, used to couple a balanced antenna (such as a dipole) to unbalanced feeder (such as co-ax)
BNC	Type of connector used for connecting between radio equipment and an antenna (bayonet connector, twist-and-click)
CQ	A general call asking for someone to make contact with you. Derives from "I Seek You"
CW	Continuous Wave – Morse Code
CTCSS	Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System. Sub-audible tone sent alongside a transmission to allow a repeater to "open" – allows the repeater to only forward genuine messages
Dummy Load	Device that plugs into a transmitter's antenna socket to allow you to test a transmitter without radiating a signal into an antenna
EMC	Electro-Magnetic Compatibility. A device's immunity to interference. EMC issues relate to electrical or radio interference to other equipment.
ERP	Effective Radiated Power – How much power your antenna is outputting (calculated by multiplying the power in watts by the "gain" of the antenna)
FM	Frequency Modulation. Method of combining a radio signal with a carrier. The signal changes the frequency of the carrier's waveform
Ionosphere	Layer of conductive gases 70-400km above Earth, that refracts radio signals back to Earth – Used to make HF contacts beyond line-of-sight
Ohm's Law	The Voltage equals the Current multiplied by the Resistance ($V = I \times R$)
PL-259	Type of connector used for connecting between radio equipment and an antenna (screw-thread)
Q Codes	Shorthand codes used on amateur radio dating back to early Morse Code days. Common codes are: QTH (Location) ; QSL (Acknowledgement of receipt) ; QRZ (Who is calling) ; QRM (Man-made interference) ; QRP (Reduced power) ; QSY (Change frequency) ; QSO (communication / contact). Can be a question or a statement- e.g. "QSL?"... "QSL" (<i>Did you get that? Yes, I got that</i>)
RF	Radio Frequency
SSB	Single Sideband. The exact definition is outside the scope of Foundation, but there are two types: USB (Upper Sideband) and LSB (Lower Sideband). These are methods of transmission, like FM and AM
VSWR	Voltage Standing Wave Ratio. Often shortened to SWR. An SWR of 1:1 would indicate that all of the power from the transmitter is being radiated by the antenna. An SWR reading of 2:1 or higher would indicate that a significant amount of power is reflected back to the transmitter from the antenna (indicating an antenna mismatch)
TNC	Terminal Node Controller. Type of interface between a computer and a radio – used for data modes over amateur radio.
Yagi	A beam antenna. Typically has a gain, and focusses energy into a single beam