

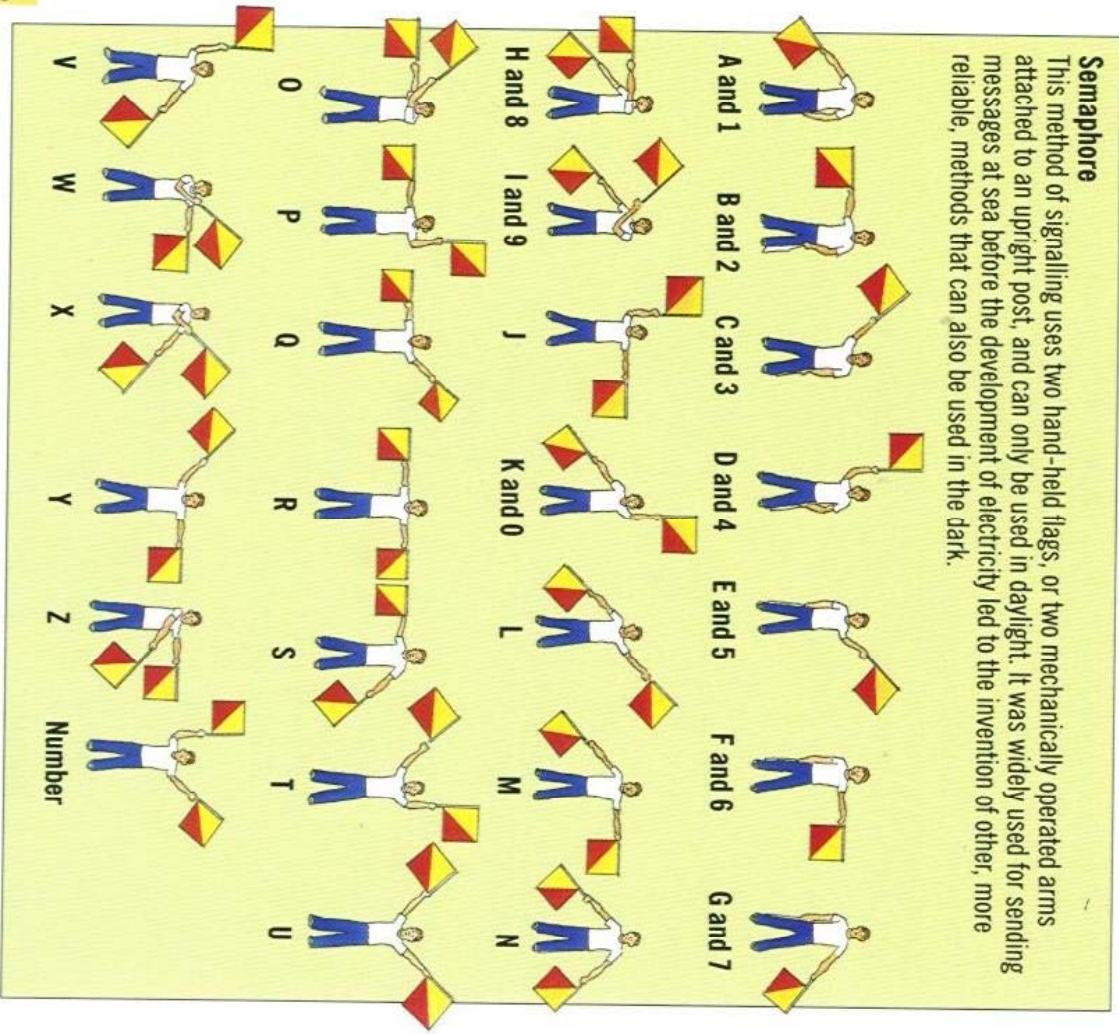
Sending signals

In an emergency, it may be vital to get help by attracting the attention of other people. There are several

ways of sending distress signals, including semaphore, Morse code and international ground-to-air signals. When using a telephone or radio, letters can be misheard. To avoid confusion, follow each letter with its NATO alphabet equivalent.

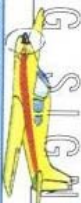
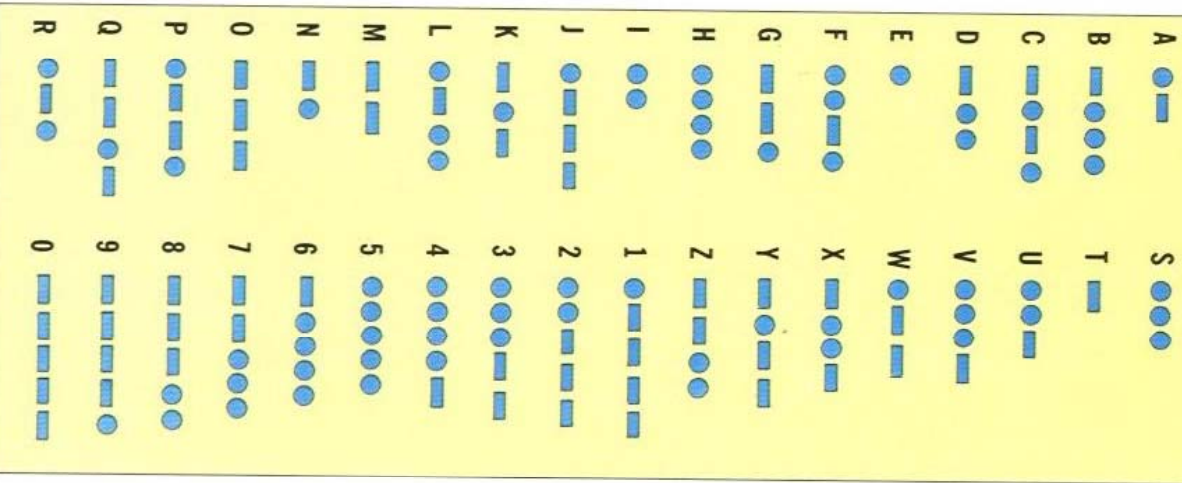
Semaphore

This method of signalling uses two hand-held flags, or two mechanically operated arms attached to an upright post, and can only be used in daylight. It was widely used for sending messages at sea before the development of electricity led to the invention of other, more reliable, methods that can also be used in the dark.














Morse code

This was invented by Samuel Morse in 1837. Letters consist of combinations of dots and dashes. Messages can be sent by flashing a light, by sound, or by waving a flag (to your right for a dot, left for a dash).



Ground-to-air signals
These symbols are made using stones, vegetation, clothes, or marks in snow or sand, to be seen by searching aircraft.

	Doctor needed; serious injury		Medical supplies needed
	Unable to proceed further		Food and water needed
	All well with us		Safe to land at this spot
	Indicate direction and proceed		I am/we are proceeding in this direction
	Message not understood		No
	Yes		I/we need map and compass

NATO alphabet

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

Braille

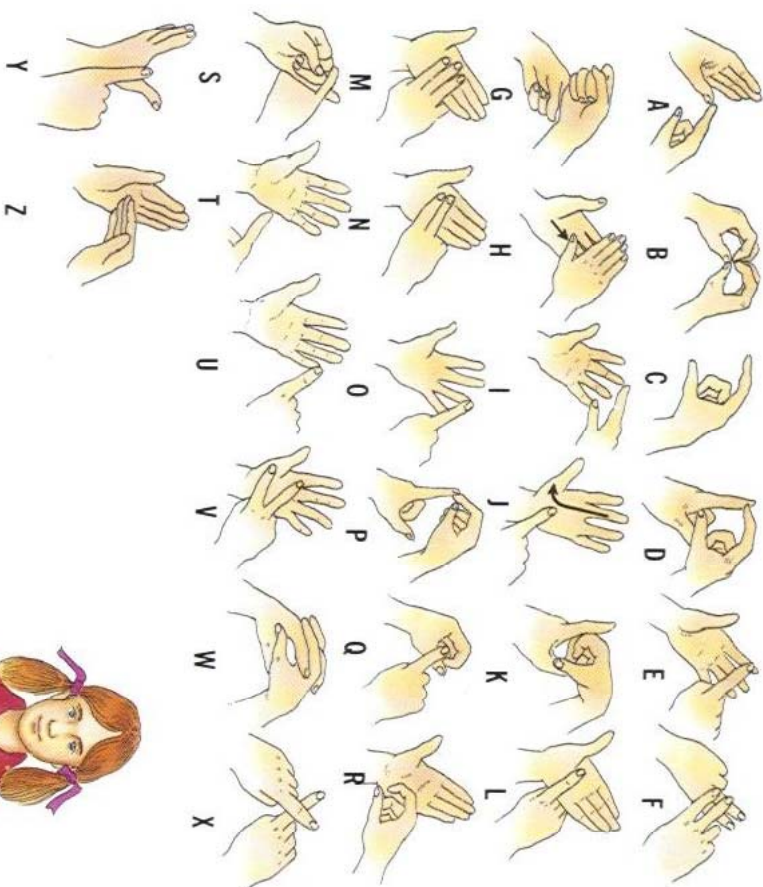
Braille is a system of writing and printing for blind people. Each letter consists of a pattern of

raised dots, based on the six dots of a domino. People can learn how to 'read' these letters with their fingertips. The alphabet was invented in 1843 by Louis Braille, a Frenchman who had been blinded in an accident in his childhood.

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	and	for	of	the
with	fraction	numeral	poetry	apostrophe
hyphen	dash	comma	semicolon	colon
full stop	!	()	? and "	"

Sign language

∇ The sign language alphabet used in Britain. There are a number of other types of sign language which are used in some countries. They are all quite different and a person who knows one type can't necessarily understand any others.



In sign language, the hands are used instead of spoken or written words. It was developed for people who are deaf, dumb or both. The illustration above shows the signs used to make the letters of the alphabet. There are other signs that represent whole words.

The first known sign language for deaf people was developed in 1775 by Abbé Charles Michel de l'Épée for use at a school for the deaf in Paris, France.

▷ This girl is 'signing'. In some television programmes, you may see a person in one corner of the screen using sign language. This helps people who are deaf to enjoy the programme as well as people who are able to hear.

