

## CODE QUIZ

From airports to retail stores to hospitals, code words are used in almost every industry. Codes can simplify communication, disguise secret information, or pass messages to employees without alarming the general public.

### **1. Code Oscar**

- A. A disturbance in the street
- B. The term for a security breach at the Academy Awards
- C. Man overboard

### **2. Doctor Firestone**

- A. A violent patient is on the premises
- B. The code name for an assassin
- C. A hospital fire

### **3.     ••• — — — •••**

- A. Morse code for 'SOS'
- B. Morse code for 'Good morning'
- C. This doesn't mean anything -- it's just a bunch of dots and dashes

**4. PICNIC**

- A. Food contamination in a restaurant
- B. A slang term for 'user error'
- C. What retail employees say when they're ready for their lunch break

**5. Code Blue**

- A. Cardiac arrest
- B. Missing person
- C. Biohazard

**6. WILCO**

- A. A wet spill in a supermarket
- B. An acronym meaning 'will comply.'
- C. What is your position in latitude and longitude?

**7. ID-10-T**

- A. Idiot
- B. An ID code used by FBI agents
- C. The name of a clandestine military operation in Afghanistan

## CODE QUIZ - Answers

1. Code Oscar

- A. A disturbance in the street
- B. The term for a security breach at the Academy Awards
- C. Man overboard

Code Oscar means 'man overboard' on a ship. It is signalled with three prolonged blasts on the ship's whistle and General Alarm bell.

2. Doctor Firestone

- A. A violent patient is on the premises
- B. The code name for an assassin
- C. A hospital fire

Dr. Firestone is often used in hospitals as a code word for fire (some alternatives may include Dr. Red or Dr. Pyro, where 'Doctor' is code for an emergency situation).

A message announced over a hospital's public loudspeaker may sound something like 'Paging Dr. Firestone to third floor,' which alerts medical staff that there is a possible fire in the specified location.

3. ... — — — ...

- A. Morse code for 'SOS'
- B. Morse code for 'Good morning'
- C. This doesn't mean anything -- it's just a bunch of dots and dashes

... -- -- -- ... is the distress signal for SOS in one of the most well-known uses of Morse Code, where three dots is the code letter for 'S' and three dashes is the code letter for 'O.'

Morse code is essentially a way of transmitting telegraphic information through a series of short signals known as dits (represented as dots) and long signals known as dahs (represented as dashes). Each character (letter or numeral) is represented by a unique sequence of dots and dashes that when translated, relies on intervals of time between dits and dahs, between letters, and between words.

4. PICNIC

- A. Food contamination in a restaurant
- B. A slang term for 'user error'
- C. What retail employees say when they're ready for their lunch break

PICNIC is computer support slang for 'Problem In Chair Not In Computer.' It's really just another way of saying the user is the source of the problem, not the computer.

5. Code Blue

- A. Cardiac arrest
- B. Missing person
- C. Biohazard

Code blue is a term commonly used in hospitals to alert doctors that a patient is in cardiac arrest.

The phrase was first used in the Critical Care Unit in Kansas, chosen for the bluish colour patients turned when in cardiac arrest

6. WILCO

- A. A wet spill in a supermarket
- B. An acronym meaning 'will comply.'
- C. What is your position in latitude and longitude?

WILCO is an acronym for 'will comply,' typically used by the military as a response after receiving new directions.

The phrase is part of a long of military voice procedures designed to simplify communications and reduce misunderstandings during radio transmissions.

7. ID-10-T

- A. Idiot
- B. An ID code used by FBI agents
- C. The name of a clandestine military operation in Afghanistan

In the ITC world, ID-10-T or 'idiot' is a cryptic way of saying, well, the customer is an idiot. Like PICNIC, it's a derogatory term used by tech support to call out inferior computer users.