

Readability & Strength (RS) Codes for Voice Radio Communication

R	= Readability (Information)	S	= Strength (Signal)
1	NOT READABLE	1	Faint — <i>Barely Perceptible</i>
2	<i>Barely Readable</i> , occ'l words distinguishable	2	Very Weak
3	Readable w/ Considerable Difficulty	3	Weak
4	Readable w/ Practically No Difficulty	4	Fair
5	Perfectly Readable	5	Fairly Good
		6	Good
		7	Moderately Strong
		8	Strong
		9	Extremely Strong

Acceptable = "4x6" aka "Four By Six"

4	Readable (<i>No Major Problem to Understand</i>)	6	Good (<i>Signal Strength</i>)
---	---	---	--

Desirable = "5x5" aka "Five By Five" ...or **better!**

5	Perfectly Readable	6>9	Good — <i>Signal up to</i> — Extremely Strong
---	---------------------------	-----	---

Readability

R stands for "Readability", a qualitative assessment of *how easy or difficult it is to correctly copy the information being transmitted*. For voice comm's, readability refers to **how easy or difficult it is for each spoken word to be understood** correctly. Measured on a scale of 1 to 5.

Strength

S stands for "Strength". Strength is an assessment of **how powerful the received signal is** at the receiving location. [In] practice this portion of the "RS(T)" code is a qualitative assessment, often made based on the S meter of the [radio receiver]. Measured on a scale of 1 to 9.

Variations

An example RST report for a voice transmission is "59", usually pronounced "five nine" or "five by nine", a report that indicates a perfectly readable and very strong signal. Exceptionally strong signals are (additionally) designated by the quantitative number of decibels, in excess of "S9", displayed on the receiver's S meter. Example: "Your signal is 30 dB over S9."