

PRISONER OF WAR 'TAP CODE'

Teach your friends to write to you in code
You can text in code too! Just use the numbers, not the dots.



This type of code message is thought to have originated in ancient Greece. The **Tap Code** was used by prisoners in WW2 and it was used to very good effect by American POWs during the Vietnam War, to send messages to each other in the **Hoa Lo Prison** [known as the "**Hanoi Hilton**"]. The code was a means of transmitting intelligence and information to other prisoners; also it kept the prisoners occupied and helped to keep up their morale.

Each letter is transmitted by tapping two numbers from 1 to 5, to represent the co-ordinates of letters in a grid. The first number indicates the **row**, and the second number the **column** [similar to co-ordinates for maps or the game 'Battleships & Cruisers'].

	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C	D	E
2	F	G	H	I	J
3	L	M	N	O	P
4	Q	R	S	T	U
5	V	W	X	Y	Z

(Note that the letter **C** also represents the letter **K**).

The letter **X** is often used to break up sentences, like using a full stop.

Examples:

To tap F - tap twice, pause, then tap once more. [Row 2 / Column 1]

To tap Y - tap five times, pause, then tap four times. [Row 5 / Column 4]

ESCAPE	· ·····	···· ···	· ···	· ·	····	· ·····
	1-5	4-3	1-3	1-1	3-5	1-5
	E	S	C	A	P	E