


All about telegrams

Before everyone owned their own telephones, sending a telegram was the best way of getting an urgent message to someone far away. This service started in 1845 in the UK, and can still be used in many countries today.

Here's how it works...

1. **Write your message.** Each word costs money, so keep it short!

POST  OFFICE
TELEGRAM

Date

From To

Message

POST OFFICE
APR 13 1917

2. Take it to the Post Office. **How much will it cost to send your telegram?**

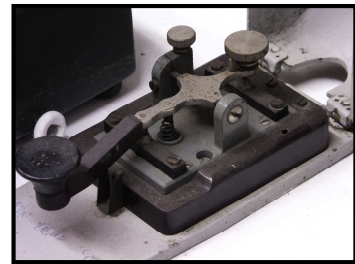
First 10 words = 5p

Every word after that = 2p

Cost =

3. The clerk will send your message through a **pneumatic tube** to the teleprinter room. *Follow the tube* to find out how to get there!

4. The teleprinter operator will now use a **Morse code key** to send your message along a wire as pulses of e _____.



Can you write 'Morse code' using Morse code?

5. Where could your message end up? Anywhere in the world that has a connection to the telegraph wire, and a **receiver** to transform the signals back into letters.

Try unscrambling this Morse Code message:

... - ..- -.-. -.- / ..- .--. / .- /
.-... .- -.. -... . .- //-... .--.

Who in the Connected Earth building might have sent this message?

6. Now it's time to deliver the telegram to the right person.

What method of transport could you use to do this?