

# Hot Tips

*Good info for the new ham, and old stuff to refresh your memory*



## No need to always repeat your full call sign

There are times, especially when operating on SSB (single sideband), that a station has a difficult time copying you, for whatever reason. He might have heard your call sign prefix well, but not the rest of it, for example. Does he need to hear your entire call sign again, or just the part he missed? The answer is, only the part he said he missed, *unless he specifically asks for your full call sign again.*

Let's say your call sign is K7ABG, and the other station says

*keelo seven alfa something, what was the rest of your call?*

At that point, you have a choice. If you state your entire call sign, like

*keelo seven alfa bravo golf*

then he'll be unsure, because he thought he got the first part correctly, but now you're indicating that even the first part was wrong, because the protocol is to *only repeat what needs correcting.* He believes he heard the first part of your call sign again, since it matches what he had heard before, so he says

*keelo seven alfa, what's the rest of your call?*

And if you give your full call sign again, he might get a bit frustrated, and give up making the contact with you altogether, because he just couldn't hear you well enough to copy your entire call sign.

To remedy this, *only repeat the portion that your contact indicates is the problem.* For example, when he says

*keelo seven alfa, what's the rest of your call?*

it's best to only say

*bravo golf, bravo golf, bravo golf*

and that gives him the ammunition he needs to piece together your call sign correctly:

*keelo seven alfa bravo golf, QSL?*

Now, you need to respond appropriately once again. If you then repeat your call sign, he'll be forced to start over, believing he *still* got something wrong. If he got it right, the only thing you should say is

*roger, roger, QSL*

and nothing else.

Your potential contact might ask for a missing numeral by saying

*keelo question mark alfa bravo golf*

Your reply should be

*seven, seven*

and if he still can't hear it, say

*seven, seven, five six seven*

and that helps him once again to piece your call sign together correctly, by giving him some *context.*

It's very possible that the other person is running with a little power (meaning a *lot* of power), and is using a monster beam antenna, so you're able to hear him really well. Psychologically, that situation tends to make us believe that he could hear us as well as we could hear him. But the reason he's asking you to repeat part of your call sign is because your signal is difficult for him to copy you. By only repeating what's asked of you, and not your full call sign, you can prevent confusion and make your exchange a little smoother and less frustrating.

You can see a video about this from [The DXCommander](#).

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