

Teaching Marine VHF Radio

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Abstract : Training students to use a Marine VHF presents challenges because materials are either out of date or cost prohibitive. It is also difficult to teach in a "real world" setting. This presentation gives a few ideas of how to give practical training and a fair testing method.

Key words : VHF radio, practical education, training

Basic ideas about teaching

How much do people remember?


| Teaching Method | % retained |
|--|------------|
| Reading | 10 |
| Listening | 20 |
| Charts | 30 |
| Films & Videos | 40 |
| Demonstrations | 50 |
| Presentations (Before mid-term) | 70 |
| Role Playing (before and after mid-term) | 80 |
| Simulation of real learning task (after mid-term) | 90 |
| Doing the real learning task | 100 |

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Effective Retention

- No computers allowed
- No cameras allowed
- Students must take notes by hand
 - Recent studies show that writing notes by hand is much more effective than notes taken on a computer



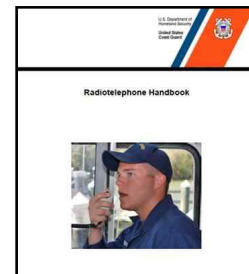
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Odds and Ends

- No *trick questions* on the tests
 - Do not help students become proficient
 - Frustrate students
- Classes mix of note taking and speaking exercises (based on what they just wrote)
- Midterm Exam: written
- Final Exam: spoken

Materials

- Too nation- or organization-specific
 - USCG Radio Telephone Handbook is great ...for USCG



Problems with teaching Marine VHF Radio

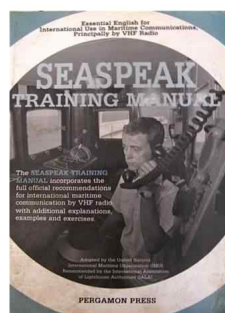
Materials

- Not enough structure
 - IMO SMCP book is just a well-organized list of words and phrases, not a real textbook



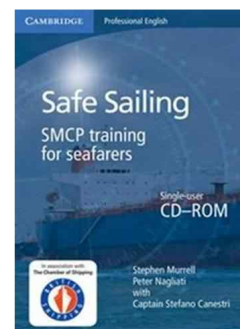
Materials

- Outdated
 - SEASPEAK is from 1985



Materials

- Too expensive
- Cambridge University Press -- \$100 CD
- I special ordered for KMU library. Now I can't borrow it from library.



Materials

- Radios
 - Cost prohibitive
 - Interfere with real radio traffic



Semester Plan

- Day 7: Basic Exchanges
 - Initial call
 - Switching to working channel
 - Controlling conversation
- Day 8: Exchange Speaking Exercises
- Day 9 & 10: MAYDAY & speaking exercises
- Day 11 & 12: PANPAN and SECURITE and speaking exercises
- Day 13: FINAL EXAM (Spoken)

What I do

Sample slides from my course

Identification of Stations

- You must identify your station every time you transmit
- Land stations identify by
 - geographical name (place name) and
 - type of service they provide

Semester plan

- Day 1: General Radio Theory & Rules
- Day 2: Alphabet, numbers, units of measure
- Day 3: Transmitting Position
- Day 4: Speaking exercises
- Day 5: Prowords & Message Markers
- Day 6: MIDTERM EXAM

Identification of stations

- Coast radio stations → "Radio"
- VTS Station → "Traffic"
- Pilot Services → "Pilot"
- You can get a list of all radio stations from the ITU "List of Coast Radio Stations."