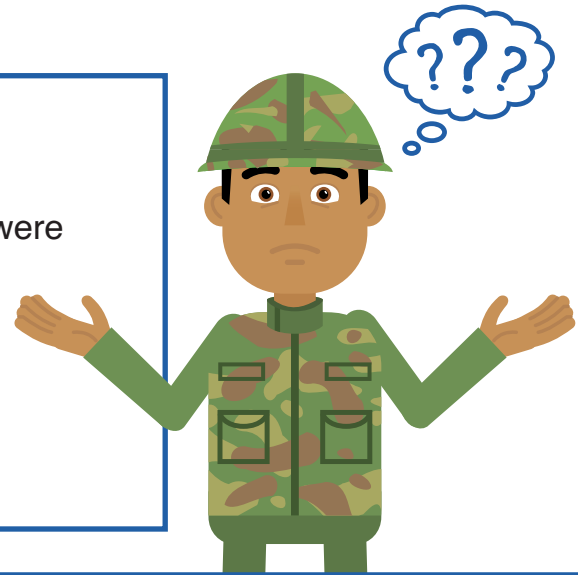


# HOW TO USE THE SECRET POW TAP CODE

## WHAT IS THE TAP CODE?

During the Vietnam War, captured American soldiers were held in prisoner of war camps. While in these camps, POWs were cut off from the outside world, and from one another. POWs would use something called the tap code, a form of communication where they tapped messages on the walls, in order to talk to each other between cells without the guards noticing.

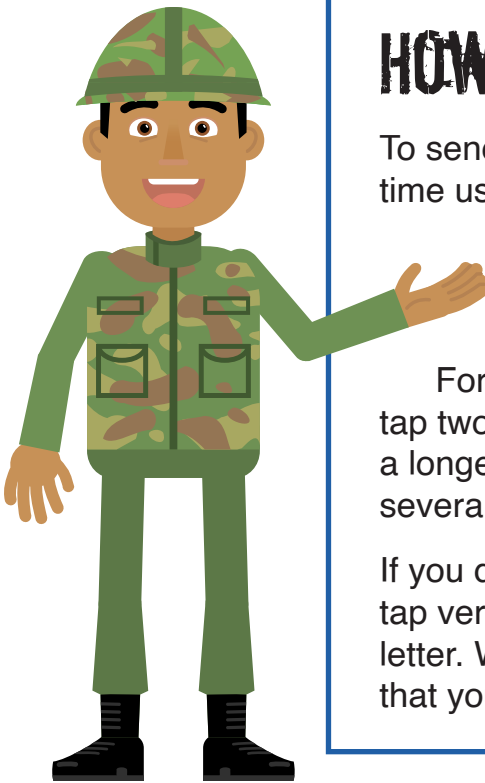


## HOW TO USE THE POW TAP CODE

To send a message using this tap code, tap out one letter at a time using the grid on the [POW Tap Code Worksheet](#). First, start at the top of the grid and tap down to the row that the letter you want is in. Then, after a short pause, tap across to the letter you want.

For example, for the letter “B”, tap once, pause, and then tap two times. Do this for each letter in your message, leaving a longer pause between letters. If you make a mistake, make several quick taps in a row and try again.

If you don’t understand the message that your partner is sending, tap very quickly to let them know that you need them to repeat a letter. When the message is finished, tap twice to tell your partner that you got it.



**NOTE: C and K are the same in tap code, so when you’re listening to someone else’s messages you’ll have to use context clues to figure out which letter they mean!**

Keep practicing,  
and soon you’ll be  
sending secret tap  
code messages  
like a master!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**LEARN THE SECRET  
POW TAP CODE!**

TAPS	1	2	3	4	5
1	A	B	C/K	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

Write your message here:

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Record your partner's message here:

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To tap out a letter, first tap the number down. Pause, then tap the number across. Remember to leave a long pause in between letters!

