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YOUR FIRST REPEATER CONTACT



A simple first call on a local repeater

A repeater up on a hill hears your handheld and passes your signal on, so you reach much farther. Your first contact is usually short and friendly.

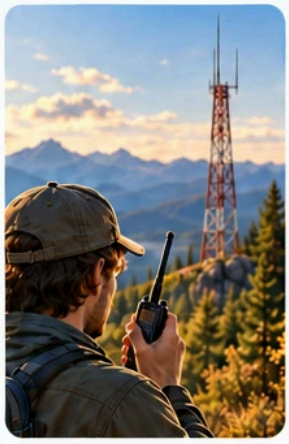
1 Find a repeater

Look up a local repeater, then program its frequency, offset and tone into your radio.



2 Listen first

Listen for a minute to make sure nobody is using it, and get a feel for the timing.



3 Make your call

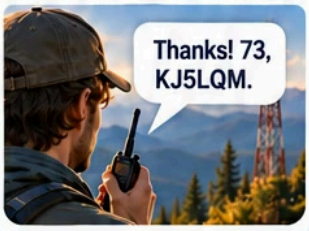
Press the push-to-talk button, wait a beat, then say your call sign and that you're listening.



4 Reply and sign off

If someone answers, trade names and a signal report, then sign off with your call sign.





Key terms

- **Repeater:** a hilltop station that re-transmits your signal.
- **Offset:** the gap between where a repeater listens and where it transmits.
- **Tone:** a low tone (CTCSS) many repeaters need before they relay you.
- **PTT:** the push-to-talk button on the side of your radio.

Good to know

- Wait a moment after pressing PTT so your first word isn't cut off.
- Say your call sign every 10 minutes and at the end of a contact.
- Keep each turn short and friendly.
- Emergency traffic always comes first. Stand by if you hear it.

IN SHORT

Pick a repeater, listen first, call with your call sign, and keep it short and friendly.

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W1DEMO is a made-up call sign.