

Origins of Dit-Dit

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The dit-dit in CW originates from the earliest telegraph days and the railroad. A train leaving the station signals "brakes off, leaving station" or "brakes off, proceeding" by two horn blasts. The telegraphers picked up the same signal as meaning "good bye" or "good luck." We use it now in CW as "good bye" or "good luck." Dit-dit is sent, the answer is dit-dit. Sometimes you will hear a single dit in return meaning "luck" as an answer to "good bye." It's not required, not needed, not always used, but sometimes you do hear it as a friendly sign off between operators.