

# **THE FACTS ON FILE DICTIONARY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

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**THE FACTS ON FILE  
DICTIONARY OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

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## R

**radar** A system that detects distant objects by measuring the deflection of *micro-wave* frequencies, used, for example, to provide information about the movement of aircraft, ships or vehicles.

**radio frequencies** The spectrum of frequencies used for *radio transmission* and generally considered to be within the range from 20 kHz to 3 GHz. ⇨ article on *electromagnetic waves*.

**radio frequency carrier wave** A *radio frequency signal* used to carry another signal imprinted upon it by the techniques of *modulation*.

**radio frequency signal** Any signal falling within the *radio frequency spectrum* (20 kHz to 3 GHz) and used to radiate information through *space*. ⇨ article on *electromagnetic waves*.

**radio frequency spectrum** The range of *electromagnetic waves* associated with radio and television broadcasting, including transmission in the following *bandwidths*:

<i>low frequency</i> (LF)	30 kHz to 300 kHz
<i>medium frequency</i> (MF)	300 kHz to 3 MHz
<i>high frequency (HF)</i>	3 MHz to 30 MHz
<i>very high frequency</i> (VHF)	30 MHz to 300 MHz
<i>ultra high frequency</i> (UHF)	300 MHz to 3 GHz

This spectrum covers the present range of frequencies used for commercial and military/civil communications.

**radio receiver** A device which can be tuned to receive *radio frequency signals* and to detect *sound signals* carried in the broadcast *radio signal* for audible presentation to listeners.

**radio signal** Same as *radio frequency signal*.

**radio transmission** A form of *telecommunication* in which *message signals* are radiated as energy in the form of *radio waves*. Examples of *radio transmission* include sound and television public broadcast systems, established to serve a particular geographic area, as well as *directional radio systems* designed to provide a *channel* for point-to-point communication.

**radio transmitter** A device capable of capturing *signals* representing *sound* or *light* and converting them by a process of *modulation* into a form suitable for transmission as *electromagnetic waves* in the *radio frequency spectrum*.

**radio waves** A range of *electromagnetic waves*, in the *frequency spectrum* from 20 kHz to 3 GHz, which are suitable for carrying *signals* across *space*.

**radiometry** The measurement of light energy from a source, irrespective of human factors involving the perception of light. Studies concerned with consideration of the human factors are known as *photometry*.

**RAM** ⇨ *random access memory*.

**random access memory (RAM)** A type of storage device used in *computers* to retrieve information directly with very short access times measured in milliseconds. Any particular retrieval operation will produce information within a more or less constant access time, regardless of the last location addressed. Magnetic disc storage is an example of such a storage medium, but *magnetic tape* is not a random access memory medium. ⇨ *main memory*.