

The Sailor's Alphabet

(Forebitter Song)

A is for the Anchor that lies at our bow,
B is for the Bowsprit an' the jibs all lie low,
Oh! **C** is for the Caps'n we all run around,
D is for the Davits to low'r the boat down.

Sooo! merrily, so merrily, so merrily sail we,
There's no mortal on earth like a sailor at sea,
Blow high or blow low! as the ship sails along,
Give a sailor his grog an' there's nothing goes wrong!

E is for the Earring when reefing we haul,
F is for the Fo'c'sle where the bullies do brawl,
Oh! **G** is for the Galley where the saltjunk smells strong,
H is for the Halyards we hoist with a song.

I is for the Eyebolt - no good for the fess,
J is for the Jobs, boys, stand by the lee sheet,
Oh! **K** is for the Kites, and the kites, and the kites,
L is for the Lugsails, and the lugsails, and the lugsails,
M is for the Mast, and the mast, and the mast,
N is for the Nails, and the nails, and the nails,
Oh! **O** is for the Orlop, 'neath the 'tweendecks it lays,
P is for the Peter flow on sailin' day.

Q is for the Quadrant - to the wheel it lies near,
R is for the Rudder - it helps us to steer,
Oh! **S** is for the Sheerpole over which we must climb,
T is for the Topman, 'way loft every time.

U is for the Uniform - only worn aft,
V is for the Vangs running from the main gaff,
Oh! **W** is for the Water -we're on pint and pound,
X marks the spot where Ol' Stormy was drowned.

Y is for the Yard-arm - needs a good sailorman,
Z is for Zoe - I'm her fancy-man,
So this is the end of me bully ol' song.
Heave away, buckos, oh, heave long an' strong!

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Type: Sheet music

Title: [The Sailor's Alphabet](#)

Composer: [Unknown Anonymus](#)

Period: Shanty

Theme: .miscellaneous

Series: Traditional

Difficulty: Leicht

Arrangement group: Voice solo

Arrangement: Solo>x

Orchestration: Voice solo>x = undetermined voice range(1)

The Sailor's Alphabet was something that every sailor should know. That's why this Forebitter song was sung over and over again. Aafter all, it wasn't just for entertainment, it was an advanced training course, so to speak. Of course, only the higher ranks could "read" the accompanying flag or (in the dark) flashing signals.