



The telegraph (widely used for almost 100 years, starting in the 1840s) was an early form of communication that used Morse Code to send messages across long distances. Dots and dashes (representing letters of the alphabet) would be tapped out in a telegraph office and sent to another office. A person would receive the message and translate it.

Below is a photograph of Princeton's Western Union Telegraph and Cable Office. Do you recognize this building?



# International Morse Code

1. The length of a dot is one unit.
2. A dash is three units.
3. The space between parts of the same letter is one unit.
4. The space between letters is three units.
5. The space between words is seven units.

A ● —  
B — ● ● ●  
C — ● — ●  
D — ● ●  
E ●  
F ● ● — ●  
G — — ●  
H ● ● ● ●  
I ● ●  
J ● — — —  
K — ● —  
L ● — ● ●  
M — —  
N — ●  
O — — —  
P ● — — ●  
Q — — ● —  
R ● — ●  
S ● ● ●  
T —

U ● ● —  
V ● ● ● —  
W ● — —  
X — ● ● —  
Y — ● — —  
Z — — ● ●

1 ● — — —  
2 ● ● — —  
3 ● ● ● —  
4 ● ● ● ● —  
5 ● ● ● ● ●  
6 — ● ● ● ●  
7 — — ● ● ●  
8 — — — ● ●  
9 — — — — ●  
0 — — — — —

Use the Morse Code translator to decode the following word:

.-- .- . . - .- . - --- -.

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Decode the following message about an event in Princeton's past:

.- .- .- . . . . - . - / ... - .- .- .- .- .- - / .- - / - . . . . / - . . - / .- .- .- .- .- .- - - - - .  
/ - .- .- .- .- / ... - .- - .- - - - .

Date: May 29, 1865

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Decode the following message about an event in Princeton's past:

.- . . - - - . . . . . / - . . . . - . . . - - . . . / - . . . . . / - . . - - - . . . . . - - . . / - - - . . . / - . . . - - /  
. - - . . . . . - - - / .. . . / - . . . . / .. . . . . - / - . . - - - . . . . . - - . . / .. . - - - - - . . .  
. - . . . . . / - . . - - .

Date: November 6, 1869

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Answers are on the following page.

## ANSWERS:

The building is “Lower Pyne,” which is at the corner of Nassau and Witherspoon Streets. It currently is the home to Hamilton Jewelers.

### 1. PRINCETON

### 2. ARRIVED SAFELY AT THE NEW PRINCETON TRAIN STATION



This picture of the train station was taken in 1910. You can see the dormitory, Blair Hall, on the right. The “Dinky” station was moved  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile south in 1917.

### 3. RUTGERS DEFEATS THE COLLEGE OF NEW JERSEY IN THE FIRST COLLEGE FOOTBALL GAME



*Note: Princeton University was called the College of New Jersey until 1896.*

This picture (taken around 1900) shows Princeton University football players. Notice they did not yet wear padding and helmets to protect themselves.

\*Bonus activity: Use a flashlight to send secret messages in Morse Code to a friend!  
A long flash = a dash and a short one = a dot.