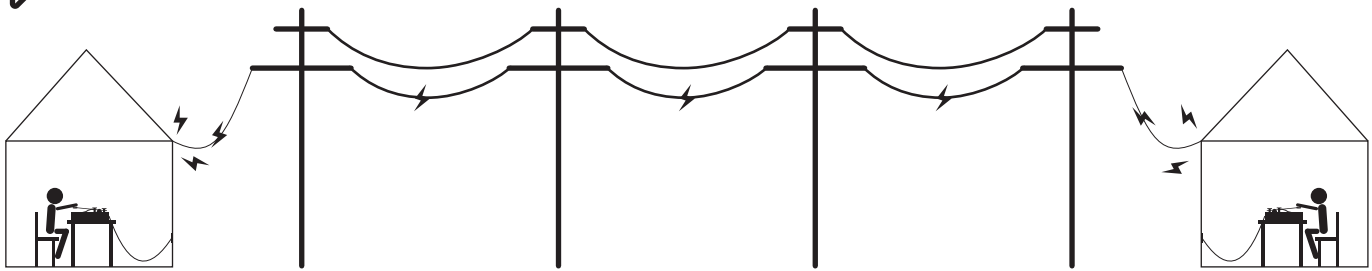Morse code was developed at the same time as the electrical telegraph. Invented in 1836 by artist Samuel F. B. Morse, physicist Joseph Henry, and inventor Alfred Vail, this machine could send electric pulses across great distances, similar to the way you can hear noises across a string with two tin cans. However, the electrical telegraph system did not allow you to speak or hear noises. So a code was created to be able to communicate using just the electric pulses sent by the telegraph.

Morse code is made up of dots and dashes. In the beginning, the dots and dashes were printed out by the telegraph machine and read by the operator. But later on, people were trained to hear the "dits" and "dahs" by ear. As our telephone technology quickly replaced the telegraph for the masses, Morse code and the electrical telegraph continued to be used for military communication, and is still used today!