



The Astronomical League

A Federation of Astronomical Societies

Astro Note D5 – Pronunciation Guide to the Brighter Stars

Introduction – All stars have names. Today stars are named based on their coordinates. Some stars also have designations using a Greek Letter (Bayer Letters) or numbers (Flamsteed Numbers). Most of the brighter stars have proper names. These names often originate in Arabic and may be hard to pronounce.

Star	Constellation	Pronunciation
Acamar	Eridanus	AY-kuh-mar
Achernar	Eridanus	AY-ker-nar
Acrux	Crux	AY-kruhks
Adhara	Canis Major	ah-DAY-rah
Aldebaran	Taurus	al-DEB-ah-ran
Alioth	Ursa Major	AL-ee-oth
Alkaid	Ursa Major	al-KADE
Al Nair	Grus	al-NAYR
Alnilam	Orion	al-NIGH-lam
Alphard	Hydra	AL-fard
Alphecca	Corona Borealis	al-FECK-ah
Alpheratz	Andromeda	al-FEE-rahts
Altair	Aquila	al-TAYR
Ankaa	Phoenix	AN-kuh
Antares	Scorpius	an-TAIR-eez
Arcturus	Bootes	ark-TOO-rus
Atria	Traingulum Australe	AT-ri-ah

Avoir	Carina	AY-vee-or
Bellatrix	Orion	BEL-a-trix
Betelgeuse	Orion	BET-el-jooz
Canopus	Carina	kah-NO-pus
Capella	Auriga	kah-PEL-ah
Deneb	Cygnus	DEN-eb
Denebola	Leo	de-NEB-oh-la
Diphda	Cetus	DIF-dah
Deubhe	Ursa Major	DUB-ee
Elnath	Taurus	EL-nath
Eltanin	Draco	el-TAY-nin
Enif	Pegasus	EEN-if
Fomalhaut	Piscis Austrinus	FO-mal-ought
Gacrux	Crux	GAY-krux
Gienah	Corvus	JEE-nah
Hadar	Centauri	HAY-dar
Hamal	Aries	HAM-al
Kaus Austr	Sagittarius	KOSS aus-TRAY-lis
Kochab	Ursa Minor	KOE-kahb
Markab	Pegasus	MAR-kahb
Menkar	Cetus	MEN-kahr
Menkent	Centauri	MEN-kent
Miaplusidus	Carina	MY-a-PLAS-i-dus
Mirfak	Perseus	MEER-fak
Nunki	Sagittarius	NUN-kee
Peacock	Pavo	PEE-kok
Polaris	Ursa Minor	poe-LAHR-is
Pollux	Gemini	POL-lucks
Procyon	Canis Minor	PRO-see-on

Rasalhague	Ophiuchus	RAS-al-haig
Regulus	Leo	REG-you-lus
Rigel	Orion	RYE-jel
Rigel Kent	Centauri	RYE-jel KENT
Sabik	Ophiuchus	SAY-bik
Schedar	Cassiopeia	SHED-ahr
Shaula	Scorpius	SHAW-la
Sirius	Canis Major	SEER-ee-us
Spica	Virgo	SPY-kah
Suhail	Vela	soo-HALE
Vega	Lyra	VAY-gah
Zubenelgenube	Libra	zoo-BEN-al-je-NEW-bee