

A Guide to Star Names, Pronunciations, and Related Constellations

Proper Star Names: There are over 300 proper star names that are used and accepted worldwide today -- and approved by the International Astronomical Union. Most of them come from the ancient Arabic cultures, but there are many star names in common use from the Greek, the Roman, European, and other cultures as well.

On the pages below you will find an alphabetical list of many, but not all, of the proper star names, their pronunciations, and related constellations.

[Find a list of star names by constellation at this web link.](#)

[Find another list of common star names at this web link.](#)

Star Catalogs that are Currently Used by Astronomers

1. Bayer Catalog: This first widely recognized star catalog was published by German astronomer Johann Bayer in 1603. This list of naked-eye stars indexes the stars in each constellation, using the letters of the Greek alphabet, followed by the genitive form of its parent constellation's Latin name, e.g., alpha Orionis. Typically, the brightest star in each constellation received the first Greek letter (alpha), the second brightest star the second letter (beta), and on-and-on. But you will often notice that the Bayer sequencing of the bright stars in the constellations is not true to what we see and know today about their apparent brightness. Original errors in the brightness estimates, along with the brightness variability of the stars (like Betelgeuse in Orion), have caused the Bayer sequencing not to match the stellar brightness that we observe today. There are over 1,500 stars in the Bayer catalog.

2. Flamsteed Catalog: English Astronomer John Flamsteed published this catalog of over 2,500 naked-eye stars around 1725. Instead of using Greek letters, he numbered the stars in each constellation, followed by either the genitive form of its parent constellation's Latin name or the 3-letter abbreviation of the constellation's name, e.g., 51 Pegasi or 51 Peg. The numbers were originally assigned in order of their increasing "[right ascension](#)" position within each constellation, i.e., west to east, but, due to the effects of precession, they are now slightly out of order in some places.

Flamsteed observed Uranus in 1690 (some 91 year before William Herschel discovered the planet in 1781), but he did not recognize it as a planet and entered it into his catalog as a star called "34 Tauri"!

3. Modern Catalogs: There are many modern catalogs that index the stars, and their listings contain tens of thousands to millions of stars. Here are some of them:

Star Catalog Name	Abbreviation
Harvard Revised	HR
Henry Draper	HD
U.S. Naval Observatory	USNO
Guide Star	GSC
Hipparcos	HIP
Tycho	TYC
Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory	SAO

Example: Deneb – the brightest star in the constellation Cygnus:
 Alpha Cygni; 50 Cyg; HR 7924;
 HD 197345; SAO 49941;
 HIP 102098; TYC 3574-3347-1

Star Name	Pronunciation	Alternative	Constellation
Acamar	AH-kuh-mar		Eridanus
Achernar	AK-er-nar		Eridanus
Acrux	A--krucks		Crux
Acubens	ACK-you-benz		Cancer
Adhara	ad-HAR-a		Canis Major
Al Kaprah	al-KAP-rah		Ursa Major
Al Nair	all-NAYR		Grus
Al Niyat	all-NEE-yaht		Scorpius
Al Suhail	all-soo-HAIL		Vela
Albaldah	al-BAL-dah		Sagittarius
Albireo	al-BEE-ri-oh	al-BYE-rio	Cygnus
Alchiba	al-CHIH-ba		Corvus
Alcor	AL-kor		Ursa Major
Alcyone	all-SYE--o-nee		Taurus
Aldebaran	al-DEB-ah ran		Taurus
Alderamin	al-DER-a-min		Cepheus
Aldhafera	al-da_FER-a		Leo
Alfirk	All-firk		Cepheus
Algedi (Al Giedi)	all-JED-ee		Capricornus
Algenib	al-JEN-nib		Pegasus
Algieba	al-GEE-bah		Leo
Algiebba	al-GEEB-bah		Orion
Algol	AL-gall		Perseus
Algorab	ALL-gor-ab		Corvus
Alhena	al-HAY-nah		Gemini
Alioth	AL-lee-oth		Ursa Major
Alkaid	AL-kade		Ursa Major
Alkalurops	al-ka-LOOR-ops		Bootes
Almaaz	ALL-maaz		Auriga
Almach	ALL-mahk		Andromeda
Alnasl	all-NAH-zul		Sagittarius
Alnilam	ALL-nil-ahm		Orion
Alnitak	ALL-nit-ahk		Orion
Alphard	AL-fard		Hydra
Alphecca, Gemma	al-FECK-ah, JEM-a		Corona Borealis
Alpheratz	AL-fer-rats		Andromeda
Alrakis	all-RAH-kiss		Draco
Alrescha	all-RESH-ah		Pisces
Alshain	all-SHAIN		Aquila

Star Name	Pronunciation	Alternative	Constellation
Altair	AL-tair		Aquila
Altais	ALL-tays		Draco
Altarf	al-TARF		Cancer
Alterf	al-TERF		Leo
Althalimain			Aquila
Aludra	al-UDE-rah		Canis Major
Alula Australis	a-LOOL-ah ow- STRAH-liss		Ursa Major
Alula Borealis	a-LOOLah bor-ee- AH-liss		Ursa Major
Alzirr	ALL-zirr		Gemini
Ancha	UNG-ka		Aquarius
Ankaa	ANG-kah		Phoenix
Antares	an-TAIR-ease		Scorpius
Arcturus	arc-TOUR-russ		Bootes
Arkab	AR-kub		Sagittarius
Arkab Posterior	AR-kub		Sagittarius
Arkab Prior	AR-kub PREE-or		Sagittarius
Arneb	AHR-neb		Lepus
Ascella	ah-SELL-a		Sagittarius
Asellus Australis	ah-SELL-us ow- STRALICE		Cancer
Asellus Borealis	ah-SELL-us bore- ee-AL-is		Cancer
Asellus Primus	ah-SELL-us		Bootes
Asellus Secundus	ah-SELL-us		Bootes
Asellus Tertius	ah-SELL-us		Bootes
Asmidiske	ass-mid-ISS-kee		Puppis
Aspidiske	ass-pid-ISS-kee		Carina
Atik	AH-tik		Perseus
Atlas	AT-las		Taurus
Atria	AH-tree-a		Triangulum Australe
Auva			Virgo
Avior	AV-i-or		Carina
Azha	AH-za		Eridanus
Baham	ba-HAHM	also Biham	Pegasus
Barnard's Star	BARN-ards star		Ophiuchus
Baten Kaitos	BUT-en KYE-tos		Cetus

Star Name	Pronunciation	Alternative	Constellation
Beid	BYED	BEED	Eridanus
Bellatrix	BEL-la-trix		Orion
Betelgeuse	BET-el-jooz		Orion
Botein	boh-TAYN		Aries
Canopus	can-OH-pus		Carina
Capella	kah-PELL-ah		Auriga
Caph	KAF		Cassiopeia
Castor	CASS-ter		Gemini
Cebalrai	SEB-all-rye		Ophiuchus
Celaeno	ke-LAY-no		Taurus
Chara	CHAH-ra		Canes Venatici
Chertan, Chort	KERT-ahn,		Leo
Cor Caroli	core-ca-ROLE-ee		Canes Venatici
Cursa	COOR-sah	KER-sah	Eridanus
Dabih	DAH-bee		Capricornus
Deneb	DEN-ebb		Cygnus
Deneb Algiedi	DEN-ebb al-JEE-dee		Capricornus
Deneb el Okab	DEN-ebb		Aquila
Deneb Kaitos	DEN-ebb KAY-tos	also Diphda	Cetus
Denebola	de-NEB-oh-la		Leo
Diadem	DYE-a-dem		Coma Berenices
Dschubba	JOOB-a		Scorpius
Dubhe	DOOB-huh		Ursa Major
Edasich	ED-a-sick		Draco
Electra	e-LEK-tra		Taurus
Elnath	EL-noth		Taurus
Eltanin	EL-ta-nin		Draco
Enif	EEN-if		Pegasus
Errai	er-RYE		Cepheus
Erakis	e-RAHK-is	also Garnet Star	Cepheus
Fomalhaut	FO-mal-oh	FOH-mal-owt	Piscis Austrinus
Furud	fur-ROOD		Canis Major
Gacrux	GAK-kruks		Crux
Giausar	JAW-sahr		Draco
Gienah	JEEN-ah		Corvus & Cygnus
Girtab	GIRR-tahb		Scorpius
Gomeisa	go-MAY-sah		Canis Minor
Graffias	GRAH-fi-us		Scorpius

Star Name	Pronunciation	Alternative	Constellation
Grumium	GROO-mi-um		Draco
Hadar	HAH-dahr		Centaurus
Hamal	HAM-al	hah-MAHL	Aries
Han	HAN		Ophiuchus
Hassaleh			Auriga
Heze			Virgo
Hoedus I	HEE-dus		Auriga
Hoedus II	HEE-dus		Auriga
Homam	HOH-mahm		Pegasus
Izar	EYE-zar		Bootes
Jabbah	JAB-bah		Scorpius
Kaffalijidhma	KAFF-al-JID-mah		Cetus
Kaus Australis	KOWSS ow- STRAH-liss		Sagittarius
Kaus Borealis	KOWSS bor-ee-AH- liss		Sagittarius
Kaus Meridianalis	KOWSS me-RID-i- an-AL-is	also Kaus Media	Sagittarius
Keid	KYED	KEED	Eridanus
Kitalpha	kit-AL-fa		Equuleus
Kochab	KOE-cab		Ursa Minor
Kornephoros	core-ne-FOR-uss		Hercules
Kraz			Corvus
Kurhah	KOOR-hah		Cepheus
La Superba	la su-PURR-ba		Canes Venatici
Lesath	LAY-soth		Scorpius
Maia	MAH-ya		Taurus
Marfik	MAR-fick		Ophiuchus
Markab	MAR-kab		Pegasus
Matar	MAH-tahr		Pegasus
Mebсутa	meb-SOO-tah		Gemini
Megrez	meg-REZ	MEG-rez	Ursa Major
Meissa	MAY-sah		Orion
Mekbuda	mek-BOO-dah		Gemini
Menkalinan	men-KAH-li-nan		Auriga
Menkar	men-KAHR		Cetus
Menkent	men-KENT		Centaurus
Menkib	men-KIB		Perseus
Merak	MER-ak		Ursa Major

Star Name	Pronunciation	Alternative	Constellation
Merope	MER-o-pee		Taurus
Mesarthim	mess-AHR-tim	mess-ahr-TEEM	Aries
Miaplacidus	mee--a-PLASS-id- uss		Carina
Mimosa, Becrux	mim-OH-sah, BAY- cruks		Crux
Minkar	MIN-kar		Corvus
Mintaka	MIN-ta-ka		Orion
Mira	MEE-ra		Cetus
Mirach	MIRR-ahk		Andromeda
Mirfak	MERE-fak		Perseus
Mirzam	MERE-zam		Canis Major
Mizar	MYE-zahr		Ursa Major
Mothallah			Triangulum
Muliphein	MOOL-if-ayn		Canis Major
Muphrid	MOO-frid		Bootes
Muscida	MUSS-id-a		Ursa Major
Nair al Saif	nar-AL-safe		Orion
Naos	NOWSS		Puppis
Nashira	nah-SHE-rah		Capricornus
Nekkar	NECK-ahr		Bootes
Nihal	nih-HALL		Lepus
Nodus I	NOH-dus		Draco
Nunki	NUN-kee		Sagittarius
Nusakan	noo-SAH-kahn		Corona Borealis
Phaet	FEYE-et	also Phact	Columba
Phecda	FEK-da		Ursa Major
Pherkad	ferk-AHD		Ursa Minor
Pleione	PLAY-o-nee		Taurus
Polaris	poe-LAIR-is	poe-LAHR-is	Ursa Minor
Pollux	POL-lucks		Gemini
Porrima	pour-EE-mah	POR-rim-a	Virgo
Procyon	PRO-see-on		Canis Minor
Propus, Tejat Prior	PRO-puss, TAY- zhaht PRYE-or		Gemini
Rasalas	RAH-sa-luss		Leo
Rasalgethi	rah-sell-GAYTH-ee		Hercules
Rasalhague	RAHS-al-haig		Ophiuchus

Star Name	Pronunciation	Alternative	Constellation
Ras al mothallah	RAHS-al-MOTH-al-ah	also Mothallah	Triangulum
Rastaban			Draco
Regulus	REG-you-luss		Leo
Rigel	RYE-jel		Orion
Rigil Kentaurus	RYE-jel ken-TAW-russ		Centaurus
Rotanev	ROH-ta-nev		Delphinus
Ruchbah	ROOK-baht		Cassiopeia
Rukbat	ROOK-baht		Sagittarius
Sabik	SAH-bik		Ophiuchus
Sadachbia	sah-DUCK-be-ah		Aquarius
SadalBari	sah-dul-BAH-ree		Pegasus
SadalMelik	sah-dul-MEL-ik		Aquarius
SadalSuud	sah-dul-su-OOD		Aquarius
Sadr	SADE-der		Cygnus
Saiph	SAFE		Orion
Sargas	SAHR-goss		Scorpius
Sarin	SAHR-in		Hercules
Scheat	SHEE-at		Pegasus
Schedar	SHED-er		Cassiopeia
Segin	SEG-in		Cassiopeia
Seginus	seg-EEN-us		Bootes
Shaula	SHOWL-a		Scorpius
Sheliak	SHEL-ee-yak		Lyra
Sheratan	SHARE-ah-tan		Aries
Sirius	SEER-ee-us		Canis Major
Skat	SKAHT		Aquarius
Spica	SPEE-ka	SPY-ka	Virgo
Sterope	STER-o-pee		Taurus
Sualocin	swah-LOH-sin		Delphinus
Suhail al Muhlif	soo-HALE-al-MOO-liff	also Suhail	Vela
Sulafat	SOOL-a-faht		Lyra
Syrma	SIRM-a		Virgo
Talitha	TAH-lith-a		Ursa Major
Tania Australis	THA-ni-ya ow-STRAH-liss		Ursa Major

Star Name	Pronunciation	Alternative	Constellation
Tania Borealis	THA-ni-ya bor-ee-AH-liss		Ursa Major
Tarazed	TAHR-ah-zed		Aquila
Taygeta	TAY-get-a		Taurus
Tegmine	teg-MEEN-e		Cancer
Tejat Posterior	TAY-zhaht pos-TER-i-o		Gemini
Thuban	THOO-bahn		Draco
Unukalhai	uh-NOO-kul-lye		Serpens
Vega	VEY-ga	VEE-ga	Lyra
Vindemiatrix	vin-de-mee-AY-tricks	vin-de-my-AH-tricks	Virgo
Wasat	wah-SAHT		Canis Major
Wazn	WUZ-un	also Wezn	Columba
Wei			Scorpius
Wesen	WEZ-en	also Wezen	Canis Major
Yed Posterior	YED pos-TER-i-or		Ophiuchus
Yed Prior	YED PRYE-or	YED PREE-or	Ophiuchus
Zaniah	zah-NYE-a		Virgo
Zaurak	ZAW-rahk		Eridanus
Zavijava	zah-vee-JAH-vah		Virgo
Zosma	ZOSS-mah		Leo
Zubenelakrab	zoo-BEN-el-AK-rab		Libra
Zubenelgenubi	zoo-BEN-el-je-NEW-bee		Libra
Zubeneschamali	zoo-BEN-ess-sha-MAH-lee		Libra