

J The Brightest Twenty Stars

Note: These are the stars that *appear* the brightest visually, as seen from our vantage point on Earth. They are not necessarily the stars that are intrinsically the most luminous.

The Brightest Twenty Stars										
Name					Proper Motion (arcsec/y)		Right Ascension		Declination	
Traditional	Bayer	Luminosity (Sun = 1)	Distance (light-years)	Spectral Type	RA	Dec	(h)	(m)	(deg)	(min)
Sirius	α Canis Majoris	22.5	8.6	A1 V	-0.5	-1.2	06	45.2	-16	43
Canopus	α Carinae	13,500	309	F0 II	+0.02	+0.02	06	24.0	-52	42
Rigel Kentaurus	α Centauri	1.94	4.32	G2 V + K IV	-3.7	+0.5	14	39.7	-60	50
Arcturus	α Bootis	120	36.72	K1.5 III	-1.1	-2.0	14	15.7	+19	11
Vega	α Lyrae	49	25.04	A0 V	+0.2	+0.3	18	36.9	+38	47
Capella	α Aurigae	140	42.80	G8 III + G0 III	+0.08	-0.4	05	16.7	+46	00
Rigel	β Orionis	50,600	863	B8 I	+0.00	+0.00	05	14.5	-08	12
Procyon	α Canis Minoris	7.31	11.46	F5 IV-V	-0.7	-1.0	07	39.3	+05	14
Achernar	α Eridani	1030	139	B3 V	+0.10	-0.04	01	37.7	-57	14
Betelgeuse	α Orionis	13,200	498	M2 I	+0.02	+0.01	05	55.2	+07	24
Hadar	β Centauri	7050	392	B1 III	-0.03	-0.02	14	03.8	-60	22
Altair	α Aquilae	11.2	16.73	A7 V	+0.5	+0.4	19	50.8	+08	52
Acrux	α Crucis	4090	322	B0.5 IV + B1V	-0.04	-0.01	12	26.6	-63	06
Aldebaran	α Tauri	160	66.64	K5 III	+0.1	-0.2	04	35.9	+16	31
Spica	α Virginis	2030	250	B1 III-IV + B2 V	-0.04	-0.03	13	25.2	-11	10
Antares	α Scorpii	9290	554	M1.5 I + B2.5 V	-0.01	-0.02	16	29.4	-26	26
Pollux	β Geminorum	31.6	33.78	K0 III	-0.6	-0.05	07	45.3	+28	02
Fomalhaut	α Piscis Austrini	17.2	25.13	A3 V	+0.03	-0.2	22	57.6	-29	37
Mimosa	β Crucis	1980	279	B0.5 III	-0.04	-0.02	12	47.7	-59	41
Deneb	α Cygni	50,600	1412	A2 I	+0.00	+0.00	20	41.4	+45	17

Figure J1 The brightest stars typically have names from antiquity. Next to each star's ancient name, we have added a column with its name in the system originated by Bayer (see the [Naming Stars](#) feature box.) The distances of the more remote stars are estimated from their spectral types and apparent brightnesses and are only approximate. The luminosities for those stars are approximate to the same degree. Right ascension and declination is given for Epoch 2000.0.

