

Pronunciation Guide to Microorganisms*

The goal of this phonetic pronunciation guide is to provide familiar and or obvious syllables to make pronunciation of these organisms easy.

ORGANISM LIST

GRAM POSITIVE:

<i>Bacillus subtilis</i>	bah-SIL-lus SU-til-us
<i>Bacillus globigii</i>	bah-SIL-lus glow-BI-jee-eye
<i>Clostridium sporogenes</i>	klos-TREH-dee-um spore-AH-gen-ease
<i>Enterococcus durans</i>	en-ter-OH KOK-us DURE-ans
<i>Geobacillus stearothermophilus</i>	geo-bah-SIL-lus stee-ro-ther-MOFF-ill-us
<i>Staphylococcus epidermidis</i>	staff-ill-oh-KOK-us epi-DERM-ih-dis
<i>Micrococcus luteus</i>	micro- KOK-us LOO-tee-us

GRAM NEGATIVE:

<i>Citrobacter freundii</i>	SIT-roe-back-ter FROIND-ee-eye
<i>Enterobacter aerogenes</i>	en-ter-OH-back-ter air-ah-GEN-eez
<i>Escherichia coli</i> (K12, MC4100, JK408, DH5α)	esh-er-EE-key-ah KOHI-eye
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i>	PROH-tee-us meh-RA-bill-iss
<i>Proteus vulgaris</i>	PROH-tee-us vuhl-GAR-iss
<i>Serratia marcescens</i>	ser-AY-she-ah mar-SESS-enz

ARCHAEA:

<i>Halobacterium salinarum</i>	HAY-low-back-tear-ee-um sal-in-AIR-um
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EUKARYA:

<i>Saccharomyces cerevisiae</i>	sack-a-roe-MY-seas sir-a-VIS-e-ay
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Other Common Prokaryotic Species

<i>Agrobacterium tumefaciens</i>	ag-roh-bak-TEAR-ium too-meh-FAH-she-ens
<i>Azotobacter vinelandii</i>	a-ZOE-toe-back-ter vin-LAN-dee-eye
<i>Bacillus anthracis</i>	bah-SIL-lus an-THRAY-sis
<i>Bacillus megaterium</i>	bah-SIL-lus meg-a-TEER-ee-um
<i>Borrelia burgdorferi</i>	bore-RELL-ee-a burg-DORF-er-eye
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	klos-TREH-dee-um per-FRIN-genz
<i>Clostridium tetani</i>	klos-TREH-dee-um TET-ann-eye
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i>	koh-RYNE-nee-back-teer-ee-um dif-THEE-ree-ay
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	hee-MOFF-ill-us in-flew-EN-zay
<i>Lactobacillus acidophilus</i>	LACK-toe-bah-SIL-lus a-sih-DOFF-ill-us
<i>Micrococcus luteus</i>	my-kroh-KOK-us LOU-tee-us
<i>Mycobacterium phlei</i>	MY-koh-back-TEAR-ee-um flay
<i>Mycobacterium tuberculosis</i>	MY-koh-back-TEAR-ee-um tube-er-que-LOW-sis
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i>	nye-SEER-ee-ah gone-oh-REE-ay
<i>Neisseria meningitidis</i>	nye-SEER-ee-ah men-in-JIT-teh-dis
<i>Providencia stuartii</i>	pro-vee-DEN-see-ah stew-ART-ee-eye
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	sue-doh-MOH-nass ah-ridge-in-OH-sa
<i>Salmonella typhimurium</i>	sal-moh-NELL-ah tie-fee-moore-EE-um
<i>Spirillum volutans</i>	spear-ILL-um VOL-you-tans
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	staff-ill-oh-KOK-us ORE-ee-us
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	strep-toe-KOK-us new-MO-nee-ay
<i>Treponema pallidum</i>	trep-oh-KNEE-mah PAL-eh-dum
<i>Vibrio cholerae</i>	VIB-ree-oh KAHL-er-ay
<i>Yersenia pestis</i>	yer-SIN-ee-ah PESS-tiss

Other Prokaryotic Taxa Names Correct Pronunciation

Actinobacteria	ack-TIN-o-bak-TEAR-ee-ah
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<i>Alcaligenes</i>	al-kahl-LI-jen-eez
Archaea	are-KEY-ah
Bacteroidetes	back-tear-oid-DEE-teez
Chlamydiae	clah-MID-ee-ay
Crenarchaeota	cren-are-key-OH-tah
Cyanobacteria	sigh-AN-oh-back-TEAR-ee-ah
Eukarya	you-CARE-ee-ah
Euryarchaeota	ur-ee-are-kee-OH-tah
Firmicutes	fir-mic-QUE-teez
<i>Nitrococcus</i>	nye-troh-KOK-us
Prokarya	pro-KAHR-ee-ah
Proteobacteria	PRO-tee-o-bak-TEAR-ee-ah
<i>Rhizobium</i>	rye-ZOH-bee-um
Spirochaetes	spy-row-KEY-teez

Eukaryotic Species

<i>Aspergillus niger</i>	a-sper-JIL-lus NYE-jer
<i>Candida albicans</i>	KAN-did-ah AL-bi-kanz
<i>Giardia intestinalis</i>	gee-ARE-dee-ah in-tes-tin-AH-liss
<i>Paramecium</i>	pa-ra-ME-see-um
<i>Penicillium notatum</i>	pen-eh-SILL-ee-um know-TAY-tum
<i>Plasmodium falciparum</i>	plaz-MODE-ee-um fal-sip-PAH-rum
<i>Plasmodium malariae</i>	plaz-MODE-ee-um mah-LARE-ee-ah
<i>Plasmodium vivax</i>	plaz-MODE-ee-um VYE-vax
<i>Trichomonas vaginalis</i>	trick-oh-MOAN-us vaj-gi-NAL-is

***This guide was adapted from "Pronunciation Guide to Microorganisms", Randall Hicks, University of Minnesota Duluth.**