

Table 15.2. Twenty brightest stars (note that the larger negative magnitude, the brighter it is, and, conversely, the larger the positive magnitude, the fainter the star)

Star name	Magnitude	Constellation	Visible in which hemisphere
Sirius	−1.46	Canis Major	Both
Canopus	−.72	Carina	Southern
Arcturus	−.04	Bootes	Both
Rigel Kentaurus	−.01	Centarus	Southern
Vega	.03	Lyra	Northern
Capella	.08	Auriga	Both
Rigel	.12	Orion	Both
Procyon	.38	Canis Minor	Both
Achernar	.46	Eridanus	Southern
Betelgeuse	0.3-1.2	Orion	Both
Hadar	.61	Centarus	Southern
Altair	.77	Aquila	Northern
Aldebaran	.85	Taurus	Both
Antares	.96	Scorpio	Both
Spica	.98	Vega	Both
Pollux	1.14	Gemini	Both
Formalhaut	1.16	Piscis Austrinus	Both
Mimosa	1.25	Crux	Southern
Deneb	1.25	Cygnus	Northern

Venus is the easiest planet to identify and is only visible near sunrise or sunset. Many cultures including Europeans refer to it by two names: the morning star and the evening star. It is very difficult to assess whether people think it is one object or two different objects. In Fiji, for my Moce Island site, I could only conclude that planets were generally referred to by the name for Venus in its evening star mode rather than having individual names, and that Venus was two objects. However, the population I sampled about Venus was small—about five of the thirty interviewees.