

Pronunciation Guide to Microorganisms

This pronunciation guide is provided to aid each student in acquiring a greater ease in discussing, describing, and using specific microorganisms. Please note that genus and species names are italicized. If they cannot be italicized, then they should be underlined (example: a lab notebook).

Prokaryotic Species

Acetobacter aceti

Acetobacter pasteurianus

Acintobacter calcoacetius

Aerococcus viridans

Agrobacterium tumefaciens

Alcaligenes denitrificans

Alcaligenes faecalis

Anabaena

Azotobacter vinelandii

Bacillus anthracis

Bacillus lactosporus

Bacillus megaterium

Bacillus subtilis

Borrelia recurrentis

Branhamella catarrhalis

Citrobacter freundii

Clostridium perfringens

Clostridium sporogenes

Clostridium tetani

Corynebacterium diphtheriae

Corynebacterium hofmanni

Corynebacterium xerosis

Enterobacter aerogenes

Escherichia coli

Francisella tularensis

Haemophilus influenzae

Lactobacillus acidophilus

Lactobacillus bulgaricus

Lactobacillus casei

Leuconostoc

Micrococcus luteus

Mycobacterium phlei

Mycobacterium smegmatis

Neisseria lactamica

Neisseria sicca

Nitrococcus

Nitrosococcus

Nitrosomonas

Pediococcus

Correct Pronunciation

a-se-toh-BAK-ter a-SET-i

a-se-toh-BAK-ter PAS-ter-iann-us

a-sin-ee-toe-BAK-ter kal-koh-a-SEE-tee-kus

(air-o)-KOK-kus vi-ree-DANS

ag-roh-bak-TEAR-ium too-me-FAY-she-ens

al-KAHL-li-jen-eez dee-ni-TREE-fee-cans

al-KAHL-li-jen-eez fee-KAL-is

an-na-BEE-na

a-zoe-toe-BAK-ter vin-lan-DEE-i

bah-SIL-lus AN-thray-sis

bah-SIL-lus LAK-toe-spore-us

bah-SIL-lus Meg-a-TEER-ee-um

bah-SIL-lus SA-til-us

bore-RELL-ee-a re-kur-EN-tis

bran-hem-EL-ah cat-arr-RAH-lis

sit-roe-BACK-ter FROND-ee-i

klos-TREH-dee-um per-FRINGE-enz

klos-TREH-dee-um spore-AH-gen-ease

klos-TREH-dee-um TET-ann-ee

koh-RYNE-nee-back-teer-ee-um dif-THEE-ry-ee

koh-RYNE-nee-back-teer-ee-um hoff-MAN-eye

koh-RYNE-nee-back-teer-ee-um zer-OH-sis

en-ter-OH-back-ter air-ah-GEN-eez

esh-er-EE-key-ah KOH-lee

fran-siss-SELL-ah too-lah-REN-siss

hee-MOFF-ill-us in-flew-EN-zye

lack-toe-bah-SIL-lus a-sid-OF-ill-us

lack-toe-bah-SIL-lus bol-GER-ee-kus

lack-toe-bah-SIL-lus kay-SEE-i

lou-kon-O-stock

my-kroh-KOK-us lou-TEE-us

my-koh-back-TEER-ee-um flay

my-koh-back-TEER-ee-um SMEG-mah-tus

nye-SEER-ee-ah lack-TAM-ee-ka

nye-SEER-ee-ah SICK-ah

nye-troh-KOK-us

nye-troh-so-KOK-us

nye-troh-so-MOH-nas

peed-ee-oh-KOK-us

Prokaryotic Species

Proteus mirabilis
Proteus vulgaris
Providencia rettgeri
Pseudomonas aeruginosa
Pseudomonas fluorescens
Rhizobium
Rhodospirillum rubrum
Salmonella typhi
Salmonella typhimurium
Serratia marcescens
Spirillum volutans
Staphylococcus albus
Staphylococcus aureus
Streptococcus faecalis
Streptococcus faecium
Streptococcus mitis
Streptococcus salivarius
Streptococcus thermophilus
Streptococcus viridans
Treponema pallidum
Vibrio anguillarum
Vibrio cholerae
Yersenia pestis

Other Prokaryotic Taxa Names

Actinobacteria
Archaea
Aquificae
Bacteroidetes
Chlamydiae
Chloroflexi
Crenarchaeota
Cyanobacteria
Eukarya
Euryarchaeota
Fibrobacteres
Firmicutes
Planctomycetes
Prokarya
Proteobacteria
Spirochaetes
Thermotogea

Correct Pronunciation

PROH-tee-us meh-RA-bill-iss
PROH-tee-us vol-GAR-us
pro-vee-DEN-see-ah RET-ger-ee
soo-doh-MOH-nass ah-ridge-IN-oh-sa
soo-doh-MOH-mass FLUOR-es-sens
rye-ZOH-bee-um
raod-o-speer-ILL-lum RUE-brum
sal-moh-NELL-ah TIE-fee
sal-moh-NELL-ah tie-fee-moore-EE-um
ser-AH-she-ah mar-SESS-enz
spear-ILL-um voll-LOU-tans
staff-ill-oh-KOK-us AL-bus
staff-ill-oh-KOK-us ore-EE-us
strep-toe-KOK-us FEE-kal-us
strep-toe-KOK-us FEE-see-um
strep-toe-KOK-us MY-tus
strep-toe-KOK-us sal-ee-VAR-ee-us
strep-toe-KOK-us therm-MOH-fill-us
strep-toe-KOK-us veer-EE-danz
trep-oh-KNEE-mah PAL-ee-dum
VIB-ree-oh an-guill-air-EE-um
VIB-ree-oh KAHL-er-eye
yer-SIN-ee-ah PESS-tiss

Correct Pronunciation

ack-TEEN-o-bak-tier-ee-ah
are-KEY-ah
AH-qwee-fic-ee-ah
BAK-tear-oid-dee-teez
clam-id-ee-ah
chlor-o-flex-ee
cren-are-KEY-o-tah
SIGH-ann-o-bak-tier-ee-ah
you-care-EE-ah
ur-EE-are-KEE-o-tah
FIB-row-bak-tear-eez
fir-MIC-cu-teez
plank-TOE-my-sea-teez
pro-care-EE-ah
pro-TEE-o-bak-tier-ee-ah
spy-row-KEY-teez
therm-o-toe-gee-ah

Eukaryotic Species*

Agaricus (F)
Alternaria (F)
Amanita (F)
Ameoba (P)
Anacharis (F)
Aspergillus flavus (F)
Aspergillus fumigatus (F)
Aspergillus niger (F)
Balantidium coli (P)
Blatella germanica (F)
Candida albicans (F)
Centruroides (F)
Chlorella (A)
Clonorchis sinensis (F)
Coccidioides immitis (F)
Culex pipiens (F)
Dermacentor andersonii (F)
Dientamoeba fragilis (F)
Diphyllobothrium latum (F)
Eichinococcus granulosus (F)
Entamoeba coli (P)
Entamoeba histolytica (P)
Enterobius vermicularis (F)
Epidermophyton floccosum
Euglena (A)
Euplotes (P)
Fasciola hepatica (F)
Giardia intestinalis (D)
Glossina (F)
Ixodes (F)
Latrodectus mactans (F)
Leishmania donovani (A)
Lycosa tarantula (F)
Microsporium canis (F)
Necator americanus (F)
Onchocerca volvulus (F)
Paramecium (P)
Pediculus humanus (F)
Penicillium notatum (F)
Plasmodium falciparum
Plasmodium malariae
Plasmodium vivax
Pneumocystis carinii (F)
Rhizopus nigricans (F)
Saccharomyces cerevisiae (F)

Correct Pronunciation

ah-GAR-ee-kus
al-ter-NARE-ee-a
a-man-ee-ta
ah-MEE-ba
a-NACK-a-ris
a-sper-JIL-lus FLAY-vus
a-sper-JIL-lus few-mee-GAY-tus
a-sper-JIL-lus NYE-er
bal-anne-TID-ee-um KOH-lee
BLAT-tell-a jer-MAN-ee-ka
KAN-did-ah AL-bi-kanz
SEN-true-roh-deez
klor-EL-la
kloh-NOR-kiss sin-NEN-sis
kok-sid-ee-OID-eez IM-mi-tiss
KOO-leks PEE-pee-ens
der-ma-SEN-tor ann-DER-sohn-ee
die-ENT-ah-mee-ba FRA-jil-us
die-phil-OH-boh-tree-um LAY-tum
ee-kine-oh-KOK-kus gran-you-LOW-sus
en-tah-MEE-ba KOH-lee
eh-tah-MEE-ba hiss-toe-LI-tee-kah
en-ter-OH-bee-us ver-mik-QUE-lare-us
eh-pee-DER-moe-fy-ton flock-OH-sum
you-GLEE-nah
you-PLOY-teez
fah-SEE-oh-la ha-pat-EE-ka
gee-ARE-dee-ah in-tes-TIN-al-iss
glah-SEE-na
icks-OY-deez
lat-row-DECK-tus MACK-tanz
lie-sh-main-NEE-ah don-oh-VON-ee
lie-KOE-sha tar-ann-TOO-la
my-kroh-SPORE-um KAY-nis
knee-KAY-tor ah-mer-ee-CAN-us
on-koe-SIR-ka vole-VIAH-lus
pa-ra-ME-SEE-um
ped-ick-YOU-lus hue-MAN-us
pen-eh-SILL-ee-um know-TAY-tum
plaz-MODE-ee-um fal-sip-PAH-rum
plaz-MODE-ee-um mah-LARE-ee-ah
plaz-MODE-ee-um VYE-vax
noo-moh-SIS-tis kar-i-nee
rye-ZOH-puss NYE-gree-kans
sack-a-roe-MY-seas sair-a-VIS-e-eye

Eukaryotic Species*

Sarcoptes scabiei (F)
Schistosoma haematobium (F)
Schistosoma japonicum (F)
Spirogyra (A)
Stomoxys simulans (F)
Taenia saginata (F)
Taenia solium (F)
Trichomonas vaginalis
Trichophyton mentagrophytes (F)
Trichuris trichiura (F)
Trypanosoma cruzi (A)
Trypanosoma brucei (A)
Vorticella (P)
Wuchereria bancrofti (F)

Correct Pronunciation

sar-KOP-tees scay-BEE-eye
shis-TOE-sow-mah hee-mah-TOE-bee-um
shis-TOE-sow-mah jah-PON-ee-kum
spy-row-JI-rah
stow-MOCKS-is sim-YOU-lanz
tee-KNEE-ah sag-EE-nah-ta
tee-KNEE-ah sole-EE-um
trick-oh-MOAN-us vaj-gi-NAL-is
trick-oh-FYE-ton men-tag-ROW-fye-teese
TRY-cure-us trick-ee-UR-ah
trip-ANN-oh-soe-mah CREW-see
trip-ANN-oh-soe-mah BREW-see
vor-TEE-sell-ah
woo-chee-ERR-ee-ah ban-CROF-tee

* A = alga, D = diplomonad, F – fungus, P = protozoan