

P



Polaris

HEAVY

speech bubble
word equation

BOLD

cubic equation
marquee moon

MEDIUM

mandelbrot set
distinguishable

BOOK

kladderadatsch
editorial stance

LIGHT

give me a shout
creatio ex nihlio

HEAVY

**JEUNE
PREFAB
APPLIQUÉ
INTEGRAND
MARKING PEN
POSTMODERNISM
KEEP THE BALL ROLLING**

HEAVY

**liminal
director
embossed
waking light
my generation
lynton & lynmouth
beware the ides of march**

BOLD

**ORION
JACKET
THEOREM
COMPOUND
SCHOENBERG
POST-INDUSTRIAL
FINGERSPITZENGEFÜHL**

BOLD

atomic
ad astra
liquidation
treemonisha
soutache braid
modular arithmetic
as good luck would have it

MEDIUM

FLOORA

MINUTE

INTEGERS

THE LETTER

FIDDLEHEADS

BAD MOON RISING

PUPPIES AND RAINBOWS

MEDIUM

upsilon
bauhaus
instrument
semi-circular
possibly maybe
jag håller tummarna
northleach with eastington

BOOK

PONTE
BEVELS
NEWBURY
MAIDSTONE
SOIXANTE-DIX
PERFECT NUMBER
HYPERBOLIC GEOMETRY

BOOK

figurati
stand up
clever mike
absquatulate
sail to the moon
cacoethes scribendi
instantaneous acceleration

LIGHT

AXIOM

MINUTE

NOUVEAU

INFLECTION

PLAIN SAILING

BACON AND EGGS

MOLECULAR GEOMETRY

LIGHT

histoire
razbliuto
midcentury
geborgenheit
corinthian order
system of equations
lattelepiandi miðpæiarrota

BOLD

Polaris is a star in the northern circumpolar constellation of Ursa Minor. It is designated Ursae Minoris and is commonly called the north star or pole star. With an apparent magnitude that fluctuates around 1.98, it is the brightest star in the constellation and is readily visible at night. 23/27

The position of Polaris lies less than 1° away from the north celestial pole, making it the current northern pole star. The stable position of the star in the Northern Sky makes it useful for navigation. As the closest Cepheid variable its distance is used as part of the cosmic distance ladder. The revised Hipparcos stellar parallax gives a distance to Polaris of about 433 light-years, while the successor mission Gaia gives a distance of about 448 light-years. Calculations by other methods vary widely. Although it tends to appear to the naked eye as a single point of light, Polaris is really a triple star system, composed of the primary, a yellow supergiant designated Polaris Aa, in orbit with a smaller companion, Polaris Ab; the pair is in a wider orbit with Polaris B. The outer pair AB were discovered in August 1779 by William Herschel, where the 'A' refers to what is now known to be the Aa/Ab pair. 14/18

Because Polaris lies nearly in a direct line with the Earth's rotational axis "above" the North Pole—the north celestial pole—Polaris stands almost motionless in the sky, and all the stars of the northern sky appear to rotate around it. Therefore, it makes an excellent fixed point from which to draw measurements for our celestial navigation and for astrometry. The elevation of the star above the horizon gives the approximate latitude of the known observer.

Two times in each sidereal day Polaris's azimuth is true north; during the rest of the time it is displaced eastward or westward, & the bearing must be corrected using tables or a rule of thumb. The best approximation is made using the leading edge of the Big Dipper asterism in the Ursa Major constellation. The leading edge is referenced to a clock face, and the true azimuth of Polaris worked out for different latitudes. 10/13

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