

Arabic is a member of the South Central Semitic branch of the Semito-Hamitic family. Modern standard literary Arabic is the official language of about 20 countries in and surrounding the Middle East and North Africa. It is spoken in its various dialects by an estimated 150 million people. The speaker here is a female from Cairo, Egypt.

Arabic Consonants Encountered:

Stops:	t			k	q	(ʔ)
	b	d		g		
Fricatives:	f	s	ʃ	x		ħ
		z	ʒ	ʁ		ʕ
Nasals:	m	n				
Liquids:		l				
		r / ʀ				
Glides:			j	w		

There are also four "velarized, emphatic" consonants: [t̤, d̤, s̤, z̤]. These emphatics as well as the pharyngeal fricatives are much less pronounced in Egyptian Arabic than in other dialects (i.e. see Lebanese Arabic).

Arabic Vowel Phonemes:

Allophones Encountered:

i	u	i	u
		ɪ	ʊ
		e	ə
		ɛ	ʌ
a		æ	ɑ

Although phonemically, only /i/, /a/, and /u/ are contrastive, allophonically (especially because of the pharyngeal segments) a wide range of variation occurs. Vowel length is contrastive.

I. Spontaneous Speech

II. Word Lists

Pharyngeals - Voiced and Voiceless:

1.	[ħalima]	a woman's name
2.	[ħomɔɾ]	'donkey'
3.	[ħeɪm]	'dream'
4.	[ħut]	'whale'
5.	[ħejtɔ]	'wall'
6.	[ħali]	a name
7.	[ħud]	'guitar'

8.	[ʕaguz]	'old'
9.	[ʕiteb]	a name
10.	[hosan]	'horse'
11.	[harir]	'silk'
12.	[ʕæmf]	'candle'
13.	[naʕnaʕ]	'mint'
14.	[ʕam]	'blind'
15.	[ʕomərɔ]	'building'
16.	[ʔahmər]	'red'
17.	[hesad]	'harvest'
19.	[ʕajlm]	'study'
20.	[muʕalim]	'teacher'
21.	[hatab]	'wood'
21.	[hadiqɔ]	'garden'
22.	[ʕalem]	'flag'
23.	[ʕajlm]	'science'

Emphatic Consonants:

1.	[tʕin]	'figs'
2.	[tin]	'mud'
3.	[be:t]	'he spent the night'
4.	[bo:t]	'ampit'
5.	[ʕatɔ]	'to give'
6.	[ʕateɪ]	'porter'
7.	[tabah]	'to stamp'
8.	[teba]	'belonging to'
9.	[hat]	'to put'
10.	[hat:a]	'so that'
11.	[dɛɪ]	'directed'
12.	[dɛɪ:ɔ]	'he lost his way'
13.	[baʕd]	'after'
14.	[baʕd]	'some'
15.	[deʔimən]	'always'
16.	[driʕf]	'guest'
17.	[ʕad]	'to count'
18.	[ʕarɔd]	'to offer'
19.	[hadi:s]	'conversation'
20.	[si:f]	'sword'
21.	[suʕf]	'summer'
22.	[bes:]	'only'
23.	[bus:]	'he looked'
24.	[as:a]	'extremity'
25.	[ahsa]	'better, best'
26.	[we:za]	'wide'
27.	[wasal]	'to arrive'
28.	[sabi]	'young man'
29.	[sebab]	'reason'
30.	[ze:ʔiʕ]	'visitor'

31.	[za:hɪr]	'clear'
32.	[mafru:z]	'selected'
33.	[mahfu:z]	'learnt by heart'
34.	[mazbut]	'correct'

References:

- Bright, William (ed.). 1992. International Encyclopedia of Linguistics. New York: Oxford University Press. 1:92
- Campbell, George L. 1991. Compendium of the World's Languages. New York: Routledge Press.