

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 man from Beirut, Lebanon.

### Arabic Consonants Encountered:

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

There are also four "velarized, emphatic" consonants: [t̤, d̤, s̤, z̤].

### Arabic Vowel Phonemes:

i                      u  
 e                      ə  
 ε                      ʌ  
 a

### Allophones Encountered:

i                      u  
 ɪ                      ʊ  
 e                      ə                      o  
 ε                      ʌ                      ɔ  
 a                      a                      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

#### Pharyngeal Consonants:

- |     |          |                      |
|-----|----------|----------------------|
| 1.  | [bəʃbər] | 'her door'           |
| 2.  | [bɑ:bə]  | 'Papa'               |
| 3.  | [təb]    | 'he repented'        |
| 4.  | [təb]    | 'he recovered'       |
| 5.  | [bejt]   | 'house'              |
| 6.  | [bat:]   | 'ducks'              |
| 7.  | [bɛ:t:]  | 'he spent the night' |
| 8.  | [bət̤]   | 'ampit'              |
| 9.  | [təl]    | 'hilly'              |
| 10. | [təl]    | 'he looked'          |
| 11. | [ʃat̤ə]  | 'to give'            |

12.	[ʕat:ɛ:l]	'porter'
13.	[ʕatah]	'cut'
14.	[at:aʕ]	'cut to pieces'
15.	[baʕɔ]	'after'
16.	[baʕɔ]	'some'
17.	[mɛrdu:d]	'rejected'
18.	[mardu:ɔ]	'bruised'
19.	[kɛnunɔt:ɛni]	'January'
20.	[qa:nu:n]	'law'
21.	[kiʕ]	'how'
22.	[kɔruɔ]	'loan'
23.	[kiʕmi]	'word'
24.	[ʕsu:m]	'part. division'
25.	[ketab]	'write'
26.	[qadij]	'cause, question'
27.	[a:m]	'he got up, remove'
28.	[ʕam]	'year'
29.	[ɛliʕ]	'compose'
30.	[ʕalɔʔ]	'hang up'
31.	[ari:b]	'close'
32.	[ʕarɛʕ]	'introduce'
33.	[ɛsɔbiʕa]	'weeks'
34.	[xalɔ]	'create'
35.	[ɛsɛ:s]	'foundation'
36.	[ɔsɔ:s]	'punishment'
37.	[as:]	'cut'
38.	[sɛʕ]	'sword'
39.	[sɔʕ]	'summer'
40.	[bɛs:]	'only'
41.	[bɔs:]	'he looked'
42.	[sɔbi]	'young man'
43.	[sɛbɛb]	'reason'
44.	[lɛm:ɔ]	'when'
45.	[lɛm:aʕ]	'he polished'
46.	[mɛfru:z]	'selected'
47.	[mahfu:z]	'learned by heart'
48.	[zɛ:ʔir]	'visitor'
49.	[zɔ:bit]	'officer'
50.	[zɛkɔr]	'mention'
51.	[zahar]	'seem, appear'
52.	[bizɔn:]	'suppose'
53.	[bizʕad]	'be upset'
54.	[ʕazi:mi]	'banquet'
55.	[ʕazi:mi]	'great' (fem)
56.	[mwazɔf]	'employee'
57.	[zari:f]	'cute'
58.	[zahir]	'appearing'
59.	[hɛb:]	'it blew'
60.	[hab:]	'he liked'

61.	[hədəm]	'destroy'
62.	[həðər]	'prepare'
63.	[bihət]	'he put'
64.	[bihən:i]	'congratulate'
65.	[hem:]	'they'
66.	[həku:mi]	'government'
67.	[ʃəbəh]	'resemblance'
68.	[ʃəbah]	'phantom'
69.	[mæ:j]	a girl's name
70.	[məj]	'water'
71.	[zɛ:ri]	'flowing'
72.	[zɑ:ri]	'my neighbor'

Fricatives:

1.	[hal]	'condition'
2.	[xəl]	'uncle'
3.	[hət]	'put'
4.	[xət]	'line'
5.	[hɛjɛ]	'wall'
6.	[xɛjt]	'thread'
7.	[kəb:ɪr]	'he enlarged'
8.	[xəb:ɪr]	'he informed'
9.	[dahət]	'under'
10.	[daxɪt]	'bed'
11.	[kɛ:n]	'he was'
12.	[xən]	'he betrayed'
13.	[ʃɛkər]	'he thanked'
14.	[ʃaxər]	'he snored'
15.	[xəbzɑmʊ]	'he was disappointed'
16.	[yɛb]	'he was absent'
17.	[xɛ:li]	'my uncle'
18.	[yɛ:li]	'expensive'
19.	[xɛjmi]	'tent'
20.	[yɛjmi]	'cloud'
21.	[mɑxlu:t]	'mixed'
22.	[yɑ:lət]	'wrong'
23.	[xɛr]	'goodness'
24.	[yɛr]	'other'

Consonants - Length:

1.	[sɛkən]	'he dwelled'
2.	[sɛk:ɛn]	'he housed'
3.	[axbər]	'news'
4.	[xəb:ər]	'he informed'
5.	[sədər]	'it came out'
6.	[səd:ər]	'he exported'
7.	[bɛnɑ]	'he built'

8.	[ben:a]	'mason'
9.	[zemaʕ]	'he added'
10.	[zem:aʕ]	'he collected'
11.	[ʃeraʕ]	'honour'
12.	[ʃeraʕ]	'he honoured'
13.	[neʒaħ]	'he succeeded'
14.	[neʒ:aħ]	'to let someone succeed'
15.	[ʃaləm]	'flag'
16.	[ʃal:em]	'he taught'
17.	[ara]	'sanctuary'
18.	[ħaram]	'he forbid'
19.	[daʃa]	'agree'
20.	[sobah]	'the morning'
21.	[riʒ:ejl]	'return'
22.	[xe:li]	'man'
23.	[ye:li]	'know'
24.	[il:ə]	'except'
25.	[ħawe:li]	'about'
26.	[ħaw:e:l]	'transfer'
27.	[ħma:r]	'donkey'
28.	[ħmar]	'blush'

Vowels:

1.	[ɑ:di]	'judge'
2.	[əde:ʃ]	'how much'
3.	[kele:m]	'talk'
4.	[emti:n]	'when'
5.	[baʔejn]	'later on'
6.	[handələ]	'Thanks to God'
7.	[itejn]	'two hands'
End of Tape 1		
8.	[ʃajd]	'feast day'
9.	[ʃaxsɪ]	'personal'
10.	[təʔbiʔi]	'applicable'
11.	[u:ðə]	'room'
12.	[eʒlu:l]	'September'
13.	[bəʔʔad]	'I sit'
14.	[fə:ʔ]	'above'
15.	[nə:ʃə]	'type'
16.	[xə:x]	'plums'

III. Tongue Twisters

IV. Reading Sample

References:

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