ARABIC PHONEMIC INVENTORY

Please remember that dialectal differences exist for each language and should be considered when using the phonemic charts.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bilabial</th>
<th>Labiodental</th>
<th>Dental</th>
<th>Alveolar</th>
<th>Postalveolar</th>
<th>Palatal</th>
<th>Velar</th>
<th>Uvular</th>
<th>Pharyngeal</th>
<th>Glottal</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Tap or Flap</td>
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<td>Fricative</td>
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<td>Glides (Approximant)</td>
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<td>Liquid (Lateral Approximant)</td>
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</table>

/ʔ/, /ɑʔ/, /ɒʔ/, and /ʌʔ/ reflect emphatic consonants. According to IPA guidelines, these emphatic consonants may be transcribed as /tʼ/, /dʼ/, /sʼ/, /ðʼ/.

Reference:
Facts on Arabic Phonology*

- There are three “levels” of Arabic:¹
  - Modern Standard Arabic—used in religious ceremony and literature,
  - Educated Spoken Arabic—used in schools and public arenas, and
  - Colloquial Arabic—used at home and in community; significant dialectal variability exists among colloquial forms.
- Dialectal variations in phonology are evident in Arabic. It is important to recognize this when assessing an Arabic speaker.
- Arabic has emphatic consonants, such as /tˤ/, /dˤ/, /ðˤ/, and /sˤ/. Emphatic consonants are described as those sounds that are produced with the root of the tongue retracted toward the pharyngeal wall.²
- In postvocalic environments the /r/ is trilled; however, in prevocalic environments the /r/ is tapped.³
- Phonemes in Arabic that are not found in English include the following:
  - /tˤ/, /dˤ/, /ðˤ/, /sˤ/, /ɣˤ/, /ʕˤ/, and /ʔ/.
- Phonemes in English that are not found in Arabic include the following:
  - /p/, /v/, /ɹ/, /ʒ/, /ɡ/, and /ŋ/.³
- Research indicates that for Arabic-speaking children in Jordan, medial consonants have a higher incidence of accuracy than initial or final consonants.⁵

*Information based on a dialect of Arabic used in Jordan.

³ Ibid.
⁴ Ibid.
⁵ Ibid.