

ARABIC

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This demo takes some Arabic examples from the IPA illustrations to show places of articulation unfamiliar to English or German speakers.

List of examples (with comments)

1. Velar vs. uvular stop

2. Velar fricatives in initial position

IPA suggests that the voiceless velar fricative can be accompanied by uvular trill.

3. Voiceless pharyngeal fricative vs. glottal fricative

The sound symbolized [**ħ**] below is traditionally referred to as pharyngeal. However, there is much evidence, summarized in L&M (p.169) and Essling (1996), that epiglottal may be a better term.

Following Essling, the constriction mechanism may involve the arytenoids approximating the base of the epiglottis.

4. Voiced pharyngeal fricative [**ʕ**] vs. glottal stop

The [**ʕ**] symbol is traditionally used for a sound in Arabic that based on the IPA table should be labelled voiced pharyngeal fricative. However, there is a fair consensus that this sound is very rarely a fricative. Ladefoged (“Course in Phonetics”, p. 163) suggests that it may often be an approximant with

considerable laryngealization (creaky voice). L&M also suggest that (like the voiceless pharyngeal fricative) this sound is likely to have an epiglottal rather than a pharyngeal constriction. IPA (p. 53) refers to it as a pharyngealized (or retracted tongue root) glottal stop, and lists it together with the other pharyngealized consonants of Arabic (traditionally referred to as emphatic). In fact, this designation is not so far from Ladefoged's since an approximant with aryepiglottic constriction and concomitant creaky voicing can readily be expected to include glottal stopping in its realizations.

5. The 'ǧ ajn'-sound again, in initial position

The quality of the sound comes out particularly well in initial position before front vowels.

Further Material

See demo on secondary articulation for contrasts involving the emphatic (pharyngealized) sounds of Arabic.

See J. Essling ("*Pharyngeal consonants and the aryepiglottic sphincter*", JIPA 26(2): 65-88 (1996)) for a proposal for systematizing articulations over the pharyngeal and epiglottal region. Videos with fiberoendoscopic views of laryngeal and pharyngeal activity in these sounds are available.

See !Xoo voice-quality demo for trilled aryepiglottic constriction functioning as a kind of phonation type.

Arabic examples

1. Velar vs. uvular stop

k a l b

▶ “dog”

q a l b

▶ “heart”

2. Velar fricatives in initial position

x i l a a f

▶ “dispute”

ɣ i l a a f

▶ “cover (noun)”

3. Voiceless pharyngeal fricative vs. glottal fricative

ħ u r u w b

▶ “wars”

h u r u w b

▶ “escape (noun)”

4. Voiced pharyngeal fricative vs. glottal stop

s a ʕ a l a

▶ “coughed”

s a ʔ a l a

▶ “asked”

5. The ‘ʕ ajn’-sound in initial position

ʕ a j n

▶ “eye”

ʕ i j d

▶ “feast”