

Arabic

This is a guide for you as an Arabic speaker as you go through the Pronunciation Pro Course.

To get the most out of your membership, follow the Pronunciation Pro Course module by module and add any necessary bonus lessons.

Lessons that may be omitted from the 12-module course for Arabic speakers include:

- Module 3: Initial, Medial, & Final /L/ & /N/
- However, please still review the Word Stress lesson from Module 3

COMMON ERRORS

Below you will find some common error sounds and patterns specifically for Arabic speakers. These common errors can help you better understand your own speech patterns and areas to focus on as you improve your English pronunciation and fluency.

You might not have issues with all of these sounds. If you would like a more customized assessment of your speech, please contact us for a Full Accent Assessment from our certified American Trainers.

VOWELS

Almost all English vowels must be practiced. In Arabic, meaning depends mostly on consonants so English vowel practice is highly encouraged. (**Modules 5-7**).

TARGET SOUND	COMMON ERROR	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/er/ (word)	Reduced or distorted r-vowel	Module 4 - R vowels
/A/ (day)	Confused with /e/ (yes) or /I/ (fine)	Module 5
/O/ (go)	Pronounced too short; may be confused with /o/ (hot) or with /u/ (cup)	Module 5
/i/ (sit)	Confused with /e/ yes	Module 6
/u/ (cup)	Confused with /a/ (hat) or /o/ (hot)	Module 7
/o/ (hot)	May be confused with /O/ (go) or with /u/ cup	Module 7
/oy/ (boy)	Confused with /I/ (fine)	Bonus Lesson- /oy/

CONSONANTS

Arabic speakers tend to overemphasize consonant sounds in English (**Modules 3 & 4 - Word and Sentence Stress**).



Consonant sounds that should be silent are often pronounced (**Bonus Lesson - /h/**).

Groups of consonants are challenging, especially groups of 3 or more. Vowels are often inserted in between groups of consonants. (**Module 8 - Tricky Consonant Blends**)

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERROR	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/g/ (gag)	Confused with /k/ or /dg/ (joke)	Module 1- Final Voice Constants
/th/ (think)	Usually pronounced /t/ (though the sound/ th/ exists in classical Arabic)	Module 2 - Voiceless /th/
/TH/ (this)	Usually pronounced /d/ (though the sound /TH/ exists in classical Arabic)	Module 2 - Voiced /TH/
/r/ rare	Tapped, or trilled /rolled	Module 4 -R, R-blends, R- vowels
/p/ (pop)	Confused with /b/	Bonus Lessons /p/ and /p/,t/,k/
/h/ (how)	Pronounced as a harsh sound	Bonus Lesson - /h/
/v/ (very)	Pronounced /t/ or sometimes /b/	Bonus Lesson - /v/ and /v/, /b/
/zh/ (vision)	Confused with /sh/ (shoe), /z/, or /dg/ (joke)	Bonus Lesson - /zh/
/ch/ (chip)	May be pronounced as /sh/ (shoe)	Bonus Lesson - /ch/
“ing” (ring)	Pronounced /g/, /r/, /ng-k/, or /ng-g/	Bonus Lesson - “ing”

STRESS, INTONATION, RHYTHM

Arabic speakers have the tendency to sound abrupt or commanding. Softening the stressed and unstressed transitions in word and sentence stress will be helpful. (**Modules 3 & 4 - Word & Sentence Stress**)

Too many syllables are typically stressed. (**Module 3 - Word Stress**)

Arabic speakers may have difficulty in connected speech with smoothly linking into words beginning with vowels due to a tendency to place a hard glottal stop before these words. (**Module 6 – Linking**)

