

# Vowels

Mainly there are 3 vowels in Arabic.

The **fathah** (فَتْحَة) is a small diagonal line placed *above* a letter, and

represents a short /a/

بَ

The **dammah** (ضَمَّة) is a small curl-like diacritic placed above a letter to

represent a short /u/

بُ

A similar diagonal line *below* a letter is called a **kasrah** (كَسْرَة) and designates

a short /i/

بِ

بَ	بُ	بِ
بِي	بُو	بَا
		بِو

Very important note: the letter **أ** and **و** function as consonants and vowels at the same time.

Examples:

أَكَلَ وَصَلَ قَلَّمَ كِتَابُ سَاعَةٌ