

Maltese

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1 Language

Maltese is the national language of Malta. It is a Semitic language spoken by around 400,000 speakers[1].

Maltese is a descendant of the *Siculo-Arabic* dialect developed in Sicily and Malta, later to be heavily influenced by Italian, Sicilian and English vocabularies.

2 Data source

- Azzopardi-Alexa. (1996). *Maltese*. Routledge.

3 Phonetic inventory

3.1 Consonants

	Labial	Dental	Post-Alveolar	Velar	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Nasals	m		n			
Stops	p b	t		k		ʔ
Affricates		ts dz	tʃ dʒ			
Fricatives	f v	s z	ʃ		ħ	
Trills		r				
Approximants	l					

3.2 Vowels

	Front	Central	Back
High	i iː		ʊ uː
Mid	e eː		ɔ ɔː
Low	ɒ ɒː		

3.3 Diphthongs

Seven diphthongs exist in Maltese: /ɒɪ/, /ɛɪ/, /ɒʊ/, /ɛʊ/, /ɪʊ/, /ɔɪ/ and /ɔʊ/.

4 Syllable inventory

TODO

5 Generalisations

TODO

References

- [1] I. B. i. Capdevila. A view of the linguistic situation in Malta. *Noves SL.*, (Spring - Summer), 2004.