The Three Basic Arabic Vowels

SHORT VOWELS are found as markers on the letters:

- the kassra
- the Dam-ma
- the fatHa

short “i” as in “bib”
short “o” as in “book”
short “u” as in “bud”

LONG VOWELS are full letters that follow other letters:

- the letter yaa
- the letter wow
- the letter alef

long “i” as in “beak”
long “o” as in “booth”
long “a” as in “bath”*

*Or “aw” sound as in “soft” if preceded by the letters:

Saw  Daw  Qaw  Taw  THaw

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