Main Point
Our experimental study using nonwords reveals phonological constraints on CCs in Iraqi and Najdi Arabic, which may not be apparent in descriptive studies examining real words.

Research Question
How will Iraqi and Najdi Arabic speakers produce word-initial and word-final consonant clusters (CCs) in nonwords?

Background
Iraqi Arabic: CC is not allowed in the southern dialects of Iraqi Arabic (Albazi, 2006; Blanc, 1964; Erwin, 1969). All descriptive studies.

Najdi Arabic: Word-initial CC is allowed in specific environments: (S+F, N, L), (F+N, L), (N+G), & (L+G)1 (Alghmaiz, 2013); Word-final CC is allowed in falling sonority clusters regardless of sonority steps (Alkhonini, 2014)

Methods
Participants: 5 Iraqi (Southern dialects) & 5 Najdi speakers; Both males and females; Ages 19-36.

Stimuli: 20 word-initial CCaCi and 20 word-final CəCC; Nonwords in Arabic; manner combinations (claimed to be allowed) in Najdi dialect (Table 2)

Procedure: Reading a list of nonsense words in isolation presented in Arabic; No repetition.

Analysis: Accurate CC production (%) & Error analysis (Epenthesis or prothesis?) for the CCs with 50% or higher errors.

Results
• Both Iraqi and Najdi speakers had difficulty producing similar types of word-final CCs.
• Both Iraqi and Najdi speakers had difficulty in producing CCs. Najdi speakers had more difficulty with word-final CCs.
• Iraqi speakers: epenthesis for most word-initial CCs and prothesis for nasal + fricative, fricative + nasal, and nasal + stop stimuli.

General findings
• In general, Iraqi speakers repair word-initial CCs with prothesis. However, they do with prothesis for the word-initial CCs with nasal.
• Both Iraqi and Najdi speakers have difficulty producing similar types of word-final CCs.
• In general, Najdi speakers do not produce word-initial CCs with nasal correctly, except for N+G

Answer to the Research Question
• Iraqi speakers have difficulty producing CCs but they can produce some word-final CCs.
• Najdi speakers do have difficulty producing CCs, especially word-final CCs, even falling sonority CCs (e.g., N+F)