

Arabic Learning Poster

Juha and the Thief – Full Phrase Analysis

شَعَرَ جُحَا بِلَصِّ فِي دَارِهِ لَيْلاً، فَقَامَ إِلَى خِزَانَةِ غُرْفَةِ الْبُومِ وَاخْتَبَأَ فِيهَا

Teaching Material for Arabic Students

Arabic Text Analysis

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Without Diacritics

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With Full Diacritics

1 Word-by-Word English Translation

Literal: Felt • Juha • with-thief • in • house-his • at-night, • so-rose • to • wardrobe • room-of-owls • and-hid • in-it

Adapted: Juha sensed a thief in his house at night, so he went to the wardrobe of the “owl room” and hid inside it.

2 Detailed Word Analysis

2.1 شَعَرَ – sha‘ara [ʃaʕara]

| | |
|--------------|--|
| Translation | felt, sensed, perceived |
| Root | ش-ع-ر (sh-ʕ-r) |
| Pattern | فَعَلَ (faʕala) – basic triliteral |
| Grammar | Past-tense verb, 3rd person masc. sing., active |
| Construction | شَعَرَ بِـ “to feel/sense something” |
| Examples | شَعَرَ بِالْخَوْفِ (felt fear) [ʃaʕara bil-xawfi], شَعَرَ بِالْفَرَحِ (felt joy) [ʃaʕara bil-faraḥi] |

Conjugation Examples:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| شَعَّرْتُ – I felt [ʃaʕartu] | أَشْعُرُ – I feel (pres.) [aʃʕuru] |
| شَعَّرْتَ – you felt (m.) [ʃaʕarta] | يَشْعُرُ – he feels (pres.) [jaʃʕuru] |
| شَعَّرَتْ – she felt [ʃaʕarat] | تَشْعُرُ – she feels (pres.) [taʃʕuru] |

2.2 جُحَا - Juḥā [d̪ʒuħaː]

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Translation | Juha (proper name) |
| Root | ج-ح-ا (j-ḥ-ā) |
| Pattern | فَعْل (fuʿal) |
| Grammar | Masculine proper noun, subject (مُبْتَدَأ) |
| Cultural Note | Legendary wise fool character in Middle Eastern folklore |
| Examples | جُحَا رَجُلٌ ذَكِيٌّ (Juha is a smart man) [juḥā rajulun ḏakiyyun], قِصَصُ جُحَا (stories of Juha) [qiṣaṣu juḥā] |

Related Names and Variants:

| | |
|---|--|
| جُحَا - Juha [d̪ʒuħaː] | خُوجَا - Khoja [xuːd̪ʒa] |
| نَصْرُ الدِّينِ - Nasruddin [naʃru d-dīni] | أَفَنْدِي - Effendi [afandi] |
| مُلَّا نَصْرُ الدِّينِ - Mulla Nasruddin [mullā naʃru d-dīni] | الْحَكِيمُ الْجَنُونُ - the wise madman [al-ḥakīmu l-maḏḏnūnu] |

2.3 بِلِصٍّ - bi-liṣṣin [bilissin]

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Translation | with/by a thief |
| Root | ل-ص-ص (l-ṣ-ṣ) |
| Pattern | بِ + فَعْل (preposition + noun) |
| Grammar | Preposition بِ + indefinite noun in genitive case |
| Simple Form | لِصٌّ (a thief) [liṣṣun] |
| Examples | لِصٌّ دَخَلَ الْبَيْتَ (a thief entered the house) [liṣṣun dax-ala l-bayta], اللُّصُوصُ (the thieves) [al-luṣuṣu] |

Declension Examples:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| لِصٌّ - a thief (nom.) [liṣṣun] | الْـلِصُّ - the thief (nom.) [al-liṣṣu] |
| لِصًّا - a thief (acc.) [liṣṣan] | الْـلِصَّ - the thief (acc.) [al-liṣṣa] |
| لِصٍّ - a thief (gen.) [liṣṣin] | الْـلِصِّ - the thief (gen.) [al-liṣṣi] |

2.4 فِي - fi [fiː]

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Translation | in, at, within |
| Type | Preposition (حَرْفُ جَرٍّ) |
| Function | Indicates location or position |
| Grammar | Always governs genitive case |
| Examples | فِي الْبَيْتِ (in the house) [fi l-bayti], فِي الْمَدْرَسَةِ (in the school) [fi l-madrasati] |

Common Expressions with في:

في الصَّبَاحِ - in the morning [fī ṣ-ṣabāḥi]
 في الظُّهْرِ - at noon [fī d-ḍuhri]
 في اللَّيْلِ - at night [fī l-layli]

في السُّوقِ - in the market [fī s-sūqi]
 في المَكْتَبِ - in the office [fī l-maktabi]
 في الحَدِيقَةِ - in the garden [fī l-ḥadiqati]

2.5 دَارِهِ - dārihi [da:rihi]

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Translation | his house |
| Root | د-و-ر (d-w-r) |
| Pattern | فَاعِل + possessive pronoun هـ |
| Grammar | Feminine noun in genitive case + 3rd person masculine possessive |
| Simple Form | دَار (a house) [dārun] |
| Examples | الدَّارُ كَبِيرَةٌ, دَارُ الرَّجُلِ (the man's house) [dāru r-rajuli], (the house is big) [ad-dāru kabīratun] |

Possessive Pronoun Examples:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| دَارِي - my house [dāri] | دَارُهُ - his house [dāruhu] |
| دَارُكَ - your house (m.) [dāruka] | دَارُهَا - her house [dāruhā] |
| دَارُكِ - your house (f.) [dāruki] | دَارُنَا - our house [dārunā] |

2.6 لَيْلًا - laylan [lajlan]

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Translation | at night, during the night |
| Root | ل-ي-ل (l-y-l) |
| Pattern | فَعْل (faʿl) |
| Grammar | Adverb of time (ظَرْفُ زَمَان) in accusative case |
| Simple Form | لَيْل (night) [laylun] |
| Examples | النَّهَارَ وَلَيْلًا (day and night) [nahāran wa-laylan], اللَّيْلُ طَوِيلٌ (the night is long) [al-laylu ṭawīlun] |

Time Adverbs with Similar Pattern:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| صَبَاحًا - in the morning [ṣabāḥan] | مَسَاءً - in the evening [masāʿan] |
| ظُهْرًا - at noon [ḍuhran] | لَيْلًا - at night [laylan] |
| عَصْرًا - in the afternoon [ʿaṣran] | فَجْرًا - at dawn [fajran] |

2.7 فَقَامَ – fa-qāma [faqa:ma]

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Translation | so he rose / got up |
| Root | ق-و-م (q-w-m) |
| Pattern | فَعَّلَ with prefix فَ (fa-) “so/then” |
| Grammar | Past-tense verb, 3rd person masc. sing. |
| Simple Form | قَامَ (he stood) [qa:ma] |
| Examples | قَامَ مِنَ النَّوْمِ (got out of bed) [qa:ma mina n-nawmi] |

Conjugation (simple verb قَامَ):

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| قُمْتُ – I rose [qumtu] | قَامُوا – they rose [qa:mū] |
| قُمْتَ – you rose (m.) [qumta] | يَقُومُ – he rises (pres.) [jaqu:mu] |

2.8 إِلَى – ilā [ʔila:]

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Translation | to, toward |
| Type | Preposition (حَرْفُ جَرٍّ) |
| Function | Indicates movement toward a place or goal |
| Examples | ذَهَبَ إِلَى السُّوقِ (went to the market) [ḏahaba ʔila s-sūqi] |

2.9 خِرَازِنَةٌ – xizānati [xiza:nati]

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Translation | wardrobe, closet (genitive) |
| Root | خ-ز-ن (x-z-n) “to store” |
| Pattern | فِعَالَةٌ (fiʿāla) noun pattern |
| Grammar | Feminine noun, genitive after إِلَى |
| Simple Form | خِرَازِنَةٌ (a wardrobe) [xiza:natun] |
| Examples | خِرَازِنَةُ الْمَلَابِيسِ (clothes closet) [xiza:natu l-malābisi] |

2.10 غُرْفَةٌ – ġurfati [ɣurfa ti]

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Translation | room (genitive) |
| Root | غ-ر-ف (ġ-r-f) “to scoop/room” |
| Pattern | فُعْلَةٌ (fuʿla) |
| Grammar | Feminine noun, genitive in construct phrase |
| Simple Form | غُرْفَةٌ (a room) [ɣurfa tun] |
| Examples | غُرْفَةُ الْجُلُوسِ (living room) [ɣurfa tu l-julūsi] |

2.11 البُوم – al-būmi [albˤu:mi]

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Translation | the owls (genitive plural) |
| Root | ب-و-م (b-w-m) “owl” |
| Pattern | Sound plural of بومة (owl) |
| Grammar | Definite noun in genitive |
| Cultural Note | The phrase “room of the owls” is humorous; many printed texts read غُرْفَةُ النَّوْمِ (bedroom). |
| Examples | يُحِبُّ البُومَ (he likes owls) [juḥibbu l-būma] |

2.12 وَاخْتَبَأَ – wa-xtaʔa [waxtabaʔa]

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Translation | and he hid |
| Root | خ-ب-أ (x-b-ʔ) “to hide” |
| Pattern | Form VIII اِخْتَبَأَ – اِفْتَعَلَ |
| Grammar | Past-tense verb, 3rd person masc. sing. |
| Simple Form | خَبَأَ (he hid) [xabaʔa] |
| Examples | اِخْتَبَأَ الطِّفْلُ خَلْفَ الْبَابِ (the child hid behind the door) [ixtaʔa ʔ-tiflu xalfa l-bābi] |

2.13 فِيهَا – fī-hā [fi:ha:]

| | |
|-------------|---|
| Translation | in it |
| Components | في (in) + ها (her/it, fem.) |
| Grammar | Prepositional phrase with attached pronoun |
| Examples | كُتِبَ فِيهَا (written in it) [kutiba fi:ha:] |

3 Phrase Analysis

Grammatical Structure:

Verb + Subject + Prepositional Phrase (object of sensation) + Prepositional Phrase (location) + Adverb (time)

then Conjunction + Verb + Prepositional Phrase (direction) + Construct Phrase + Conjunction + Verb + Prepositional Pronoun

Key Grammar Points:

- The prefix **فَ** links sequential actions (“so/then”).
- **إِلَى** governs the genitive; nouns that follow appear in genitive case.
- The chain **خِزَانَةُ غُرْفَةِ الْبُومِ** forms an *idāfa* (possessive chain) translating as “the wardrobe of the owl room.”
- Form VIII verbs like **اِخْتَبَأَ** often convey reflexive or internal actions.
- **فِيهَا** ends the sentence with a resumptive pronoun referring back to the wardrobe.

4 Similar Phrases for Practice

1. **سَمِعَتْ فَاطِمَةُ صَوْتًا غَرِيبًا فِي غُرْفَتِهَا لَيْلًا، فَقَامَتْ إِلَى الشُّبَّاكِ وَأَغْلَقَتْهُ.**
Fatima heard a strange sound in her room at night, so she went to the window and closed it.
[samiʕat fāṭimatu ʕawtan ɣarīban fī ɣurfatihā laylan, faqāmat ʔila ʃ-ʃubbāki waʔaɣlaqat-hu]
2. **شَعَرَ الرَّجُلُ بِحَرَكَةٍ فِي الْحَدِيقَةِ، فَقَامَ إِلَى الْبَابِ وَاخْتَبَأَ وَرَاءَهُ.**
The man sensed movement in the garden, so he went to the door and hid behind it. [ʃaʕara r-rajulu bi-ḥaraka-tin fī l-ḥadīqati, faqāma ʔila l-bābi waxtaʔa wara:ʔa-hu]
3. **وَجَدَ عَلِيٌّ لَصًّا فِي الْمَطْبَخِ صَبَاحًا، فَأَخَذَ هَاتِفَهُ وَاتَّصَلَ بِالشَّرْطَةِ.**
Ali found a thief in the kitchen in the morning, so he took his phone and called the police.
[wadʒada ʕaliyyun liʕṣan fī l-maṭbaxi ʕabāḥan, faʔaxaʕa hātifahu waʔittaʕala biʃ-ʃurṭati]

5 Levantine (Shaami) Dialect Version

Modern Standard Arabic:

شَعَرَ جُحَا بِلِصٍّ فِي دَارِهِ لَيْلًا، فَقَامَ إِلَى خِزَانَةِ غُرْفَةِ الْبُومِ وَاخْتَبَأَ فِيهَا

Levantine Equivalent:

حَسَّ جُحَا بِحَرَامِي بِيْتُو بِاللَّيْلِ، قَامَ عَ خِزَانَةِ غُرْفَةِ النُّومِ وَخَتَبَى جَوَّاتَهَا

Transliteration: ḥass juḥā bi-ḥarāmī b-bētu b-éllēl, qām ʕa xzané ɣurfé n-nōm w-xtabā jwāthā

Dialectal Notes:

- $\text{حَسَّ} \rightarrow \text{شَعَرَ}$ (“to feel”) is preferred in spoken Shaami.
- $\text{لِصَّ} \rightarrow \text{حَرَامِي}$ (colloquial “thief”).
- Preposition عَ (fa “to/on”) replaces إِلَى .
- $\text{غُرْفَةُ النَّوْمِ}$ (“bedroom”) is used instead of the playful “owl room.”
- The verb اِخْتَبَأَ is the dialectal past form of خَتَبَى .

6 Cultural and Learning Notes

About Juha: A legendary folk character famed for wisdom disguised as folly. His tales often end with humorous twists that reveal moral lessons.

Story Context: In this scene Juha, certain he owns nothing worth stealing, hides in the wardrobe so the thief can “look around undisturbed.” When caught, he jokes that embarrassment drove him to hide.

Learning Tips:

- Practice chaining actions with the prefix فَ to narrate sequences.
- Build *idāfa* chains of 2–3 nouns to master genitive agreement.
- Compare Form I verbs to their Form VIII counterparts to notice self-directed meanings.
- Shadow-read both MSA and dialect versions to internalize sound patterns.

7 Memory Aids

- Associate قَامَ with “came up” to recall its meaning “got up.”
- خَزَانَةٌ starts with “kh” like “closet” starts with “c,” both places for clothes.
- The root خ-ب-أ appears in many detective stories—think “hide evidence.”
- For time adverbs, remember the common pattern ending in لَيْلاً (at night), صَبَاحًا (in the morning), ظَهْرًا (at noon).