Arabic Learning Poster

Juha and the Thief – Full Phrase Analysis

وَبَحَثَ اللَّصُّ عَنْ شَيْءٍ يَسْرِقُهُ فَلَمْ يَجِدْ، فَرَأَى الْخِزَانَةَ فَفَتَحَهَا وَإِذَا بِجُحَا فِيهَا

Teaching Material for Arabic Students

Arabic Text Analysis

وبحث اللص عن شيء يسرقه فلم يجد، فرأى الخزانة ففتحها وإذا بجحا فيها

Without Diacritics

وَبَحَثَ اللَّصُّ عَنْ شَيْءٍ يَسْرِقُهُ فَلَمْ يَجِدْ، فَرَأَى الْخِزَانَةَ فَفَتَحَهَا وَإِذَا بِجُحَا فِيهَا

With Full Diacritics

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1 Word-by-Word English Translation

Literal: And searched • the thief • for • something • he steals-it • so-did not find, • then saw • the wardrobe • so opened-it • and behold • Juha • in it
[Arabic order retained for direct mapping]

Adapted: The thief searched for something to steal but found nothing, then he saw the wardrobe, opened it, and behold, Juha was inside.

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2 Detailed Word Analysis

2.1 وَبَحَثَ – wa-baḥatha [wabahaθa]

Translation	and searched/looked for
Root	ب-ح-ث (b-ḥ-θ)
Pattern	فَعَلَ (faʕala)
Grammar	Past tense verb, 3rd person masculine singular, with conjunction وَ (and) prefix
Examples	بَحَثَ عَنْ كِتَابٍ (searched for a book) [baḥatha ʕan kitābin], نَحْنُ نَبْحَثُ عَنِ الحَلّ (we are searching for the solution) [naḥnu nabḥathu ʕan al-ḥall]

Conjugation Examples:

بَحَثْتُ – I searched [baḥaθtu]

بَحَثْتَ – you searched (m.) [baḥaθta]

بَحَثَتْ – she searched [baḥaθat]

يَبْحَثُ – he searches (pres.) [yabḥathu]

تَبْحَثُ – she searches (pres.) [tabḥathu]

2.2   اللَّصُّ – al-liṣṣu [alːiṣːu]

Translation	the thief
Root	ل-ص-ص (l-ṣ-ṣ)
Pattern	ال + noun definite article + singular noun
Grammar	Noun, definite, nominative case (subject of verb)
Examples	اللَّصُّ دَخَلَ الْبَيْتَ (the thief entered the house) [al-liṣṣu daxala l-bayta], اللُّصُوصُ يَسْرِقُونَ (the thieves steal) [al-luṣūṣu yasriqūn]

2.3   عَنْ – ʕan [ʕan]

Translation	about, for, from (preposition)
Grammar	Preposition governing genitive case
Examples	سَأَلَتْ عَنْ الْوَقْتِ (she asked about the time) [saʔalat ʕan al-waqti], يَبْحَثُ عَنْ الْكِتَابِ (he searches for the book) [yabḥathu ʕan al-kitābi]

2.4   شَيْءٍ – shay'in [ʃajʔin]

Translation	something, thing
Root	ش-ي-ء (sh-y-ʔ)
Grammar	Indefinite noun, genitive case (due to preposition عَنْ)
Examples	أُرِيدُ شَيْئًا (I want something) [ʔarīdu ʃajʔan], هَلْ عِنْدَكَ شَيْءٌ؟ (Do you have something?) [hal ʕindaka ʃajʔun?]

2.5   يَسْرِقُهُ – yasriquhu [jasriquhu]

Translation	he steals it
Root	س-ر-ق (s-r-q)
Pattern	Form I, Present tense, 3rd person masculine singular + object pronoun
Grammar	Verb + attached object pronoun
Simple Form	سَرَقَ (he stole) [saraqa]
Examples	يَسْرِقُ المالَ (he steals the money) [yasriqu l-māla], سَرَقْتُ سَيَّارَةً (I stole a car) [saraqtu sayyāratan]

2.6 فَلَمْ يَجِدْ – fa-lam yajid [fa-lam jæjid]

Translation	so did not find
Grammar	فَ (so) + negation لَمْ + past tense verb
Verb	وَجَدَ (to find), 3rd person masc. sing., past tense
Examples	لَمْ يَجِدْ الْكِتَابَ (he did not find the book) [lam yajid al-kitāba]

2.7 فَرَأَى – fa-ra'ā [fa-raʔā]

Translation	then he saw
Root	ر-أ-ى (r-ʔ-y)
Pattern	Form I, past tense, 3rd person masc. sing. with prefix فَ (then)
Examples	رَأَى الطِّفْلَ (he saw the child) [raʔā ṭ-ṭifla]

2.8 الْخِزَانَةَ – al-xizānata [al-xizā:nata]

Translation	the wardrobe (accusative)
Root	خ-ز-ن (x-z-n)
Pattern	فِعَالَة (fiʕāla)
Grammar	Feminine noun, definite, accusative case
Examples	وَضَعْتُ كُلَّ مَلَابِسِي فِي الْخِزَانَةَ (I put all my clothes in the wardrobe) [waḍaʕtu kulla malābisi fī l-xizāna]

2.9 فَفَتَحَهَا – fa-fataḥahā [fa-fataħa:ha]

Translation	so he opened it
Root	ف-ت-ح (f-t-ḥ)
Grammar	Past tense verb فَتَحَ with prefix فَ (so/then) + attached pronoun هَا (it, feminine)
Examples	فَتَحَ الْبَابَ (he opened the door) [fataḥa l-bāba]

2.10   وَإِذَا – wa-ʾiḏā [wa ʔiðā]

Translation	and behold / and suddenly
Grammar	Conjunction وَ (and) + particle إِذَا (if/when, often used to introduce surprise)
Examples	وَإِذَا الطِّفْلُ يَبْكِي (and behold, the child is crying) [wa ʔiðā ṭ-ṭiflu yabkī]

2.11   بِجُحَا – bi-Juḥā [bi-d͡ʒuħa:]

Translation	with Juha / there was Juha
Components	Preposition بِ (with/in) + proper noun جُحَا
Examples	رَأَيْتُ جُحَا فِي السُّوقِ (I saw Juha in the market) [raʔaytu juḥā fī s-sūqi]

2.12   فِيهَا – fī-hā [fi:ha:]

Translation	in it
Components	فِي (in) + هَا (it, feminine)
Grammar	Prepositional phrase with attached pronoun
Examples	كُتِبَ فِيهَا (written in it) [kutiba fi:ha:]

3 Phrase Analysis

> **Grammatical Structure:**
> Conjunction + verb + subject + prepositional phrase + object + negation phrase +
> conjunction + verb + object + conjunction + verb + subject + prepositional phrase
>
> **Key Grammar Points:**
>
> - The prefix وَ is the conjunction "and."
>
> - عَنْ governs genitive case, so the noun after it is genitive (شَيْءٍ).
>
> - Negation لَمْ with past tense verb negates the action (يَجِدْ).
>
> - The phrase فَرَأَى الْخِزَانَةَ shows a past verb with a direct object.
>
> - Attached pronouns like in فِيهَا, فَتَحَهَا, يَسْرِقُهُ refer back to masculine or feminine nouns respectively.
>
> - وَإِذَا is a set phrase often used to introduce a sudden or surprising event.

4 Similar Phrases for Practice

1. وَجَدَ اللَّصُّ كِتَابًا فِي الْغُرْفَةِ، فَفَتَحَهُ وَقَرَأَهُ

   The thief found a book in the room, so he opened it and read it. [wajada al-liṣṣu kitāban fī l-ġurfati, fataḥahu waqaraʔahu]

2. بَحَثَ الطِّفْلُ عَنْ كُرْسِيٍّ فِي الْمَكْتَبَةِ، فَجَلَسَ عَلَيْهِ

   The child searched for a chair in the library, so he sat on it. [baḥatha ṭ-ṭiflu ʕan kursiyyin fī l-maktabati, fa-jalasa ʕalayh]

3. رَأَى رَجُلٌ كَلْبًا يَجْرِي فِي الشَّارِعِ، فَتَبِعَهُ

   A man saw a dog running in the street, so he followed it. [raʔā rajulun kalban yajri fī ʃ-ʃāriʕi, fata biʕahu]

5 Levantine Arabic Dialect Tip

In Levantine Arabic, the verb بَحَثَ (past tense) is commonly replaced by دَوَّرَ *(dawwar)*, which means "to search" or "to look for."

Example: دَوَّرَ اللّصّ ع شِي بِسْرُقُه

[dawwar al-liṣṣ ʕa ši yisruquh]

Translation: The thief searched for something to steal.