

Arabic Learning Poster

Juha and the Thief — Dialogue Analysis

نَخَافُ اللَّصَّ وَلَكِنَّهُ تَشَجَّعَ وَقَالَ: مَاذَا تَفْعَلُ هُنَا يَا شَيْخَ؟

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: So feared • the thief • and • but he • encouraged himself • and • said: • what • you do • here • oh • old man?

[Arabic order retained for direct mapping]

Adapted: The thief was afraid, but he gathered courage and said: "What are you doing here, old man?"

2 Detailed Word Analysis

2.1 نَخَافَ — fa-xāfa [fa-xa:fa]

Translation	so he was afraid/feared
Root	خ-و-ف (x-w-f)
Pattern	فَعَّلَ (faʿala)
Grammar	Past tense verb, 3rd person masculine singular, with conjunction فَ (so/then) prefix
Simple Form	خَافَ (he was afraid) [xa:fa]
Examples	خَافَ مِنَ الظَّلَامِ (he was afraid of the dark) [xa:fa mina z-zala:m], لَا تَخَفْ (don't be afraid) [la: taxaf]

Conjugation Examples:

خَفْتُ — I was afraid [xiftu]
 خَفْتِ — you were afraid (m.) [xifta]
 خَافَتْ — she was afraid [xa:fat]

يَخَافُ — he fears (pres.) [yaxa:f]
 تَخَافُ — she fears (pres.) [taxa:f]
 خَوْفٌ — fear (noun) [xawf]

2.2 اللِّصُّ — al-liṣṣu [al'liṣ'ṣu]

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	اللِّصُّ هَرَبَ (the thief escaped) [al-liṣṣu haraba], اللُّصُوصُ يَسْرِقُونَ (the thieves steal) [al-luṣu:ṣ yasriqu:n]

2.3 وَ — wa [wa]

Translation	and
Grammar	Coordinating conjunction (attached to following word)
Examples	أَكَلَ وَشَرِبَ (he ate and drank) [ʔakala wa-ʃariba], قَامَ وَذَهَبَ (he got up and left) [qa:ma wa-ḏahaba]

2.4 لَكِنَّهُ — lakinnahu [la:kin:ahu]

Translation	but he
Components	لَكِنَّ (but) + attached pronoun هُ (he/him)
Grammar	لَكِنَّ is an exceptive particle that requires accusative case
Simple Form	لَكِنْ (but, however) [la:kin]
Examples	لَكِنَّهَا ذَكِيَّةٌ (but she is smart) [la:kinnaha: ḏakiyya], لَكِنِّي أُحِبُّكَ (but I love you) [la:kinnanii: ʔuħibbuk]

2.5 تَشَجَّعَ — taṣajjaʿa [taʃaˈdʒ:aʃa]

Translation	he encouraged himself, he gathered courage
Root	ش-ج-ع (ʃ-j-ʿ)
Pattern	Form V تَفَعَّلَ (tafaʿʿala) — reflexive/intensive
Grammar	Past tense, 3rd person masculine singular
Simple Forms	تَشَجَّعَ (he encouraged) [ʃaʃaʃa], شُجَّاعٌ (brave, noun) [ʃu-ja:ʃ]
Examples	تَشَجَّعْتُ وَقُلْتُ الْحَقِيقَةَ (I gathered courage and told the truth) [taʃajjaʃtu wa-qultu l-ḥaqqiqa]

Form V Conjugation:

تَشَجَّعْتُ — I gathered courage [taʃajjaʃtu]	يَتَشَجَّعُ — he gathers courage (pres.) [yataʃajjaʃ]
تَشَجَّعْتَ — you gathered courage (m.) [taʃajjaʃta]	تَتَشَجَّعُ — she gathers courage (pres.) [tataʃajjaʃ]
تَشَجَّعَتْ — she gathered courage [taʃajjaʃat]	

2.6 قَالَ — qa:la [qa:la]

Translation	he said
Root	ق-و-ل (q-w-l)
Pattern	Form I, past tense, 3rd person masculine singular
Examples	مَا قَالَ (he told the truth) [qa:la l-ḥaqqiqa], قَالَ الْحَقِيقَةَ (he didn't say anything) [ma: qa:la ʃayʔan]

2.7 مَاذَا — ma:ða: [ma:ða:]

Translation	what
Components	مَا (what) + ذَا (this/that)
Grammar	Interrogative pronoun
Examples	مَاذَا تُرِيدُ؟ (what do you want?) [ma:ða: turi:dʔ], مَاذَا حَدَثَ؟ (what happened?) [ma:ða: ḥadaðaʔ]

2.8 تَفَعَّلَ — tafʿʿalu [tafʿʿalu]

Translation	you do
Root	ف-ع-ل (f-ʿ-l)
Pattern	Form I, present tense, 2nd person masculine singular
Grammar	Present tense verb in indicative mood
Simple Form	فَعَّلَ (he did) [faʿʿala]
Examples	يَفْعَلُ مَاذَا؟ (what did you do?) [ma:ða: faʿʿaltʔ], يَفْعَلُ الْخَيْرَ (he does good) [yafʿʿal al-xayr]

2.9 هُنَا — huna: [huna:]

Translation	here
Grammar	Adverb of place
Examples	تَعَالَ إِلَى هُنَا (come here) [taʕa:l ʔila: huna:], أَسْكُنْ هُنَا (I live here) [ʔaskun huna:]

2.10 يَا — ya: [ja:]

Translation	oh (vocative particle)
Grammar	Vocative particle used for calling/addressing
Examples	يَا أُمِّي (oh my mother) [ja: ʔummii], يَا صَدِيقِي (oh my friend) [ja: ʕadiiqii]

2.11 شَيْخ — ʃayx [ʃajx]

Translation	old man, elder, sheikh
Root	ش-ي-خ (ʃ-y-x)
Grammar	Masculine noun, vocative case (after يَا)
Examples	الشَّيْخُ حَكِيمٌ (the old man is wise) [aʃ-ʃayx hakiim], شُيُوخُ الْقَرْيَةِ (the elders of the village) [ʃuyu:x al-qarya]

3 Phrase Analysis

Grammatical Structure:

Sequential connector + past verb + subject + conjunction + exceptive particle with pronoun + reflexive past verb + conjunction + past verb + colon + interrogative + present verb + adverb + vocative + noun

Key Grammar Points:

- The prefix **فَ** connects this action to the previous narrative sequence
- **لَكِنَّهُ** combines the exceptive particle **لَكِنَّ** with attached pronoun **هُ**
- Form V verb **تَشَجَّعَ** indicates reflexive action (he encouraged himself)
- The colon (:) introduces direct speech in Arabic writing
- **مَاذَا تَفْعَلُ** is a standard interrogative structure (what + you do)
- **يَا شَيْخَ** shows vocative addressing, common in Arabic dialogue
- The phrase shows emotional progression: fear → courage → confrontation

4 Similar Phrases for Practice

1. **نَخَافُ الْوَلَدَ وَلَكِنَّهُ تَشَجَّعَ وَ سَأَلَ: أَيْنَ أُمِّي؟**

The boy was afraid, but he gathered courage and asked: "Where is my mother?" [fa-xa:fa l-walad wa la:kinnahu taʃajjaʃa wa saʔal: ʔayna ʔummiiʔ]

2. **فَتَرَدَّدَتِ الْبِنْتُ وَلَكِنَّهَا تَشَجَّعَتْ وَقَالَتْ: مَنْ أَنْتَ؟**

The girl hesitated, but she gathered courage and said: "Who are you?" [fa-taraddadat al-bint wa la:kinnaha: taʃajjaʃat wa qa:lat: man ʔantʔ]

3. **فَصَمَّتِ الرَّجُلُ وَلَكِنَّهُ تَكَلَّمَ وَ سَأَلَ: مَاذَا تُرِيدُ مِنِّي؟**

The man was silent, but he spoke and asked: "What do you want from me?" [fa-ʃamata r-rajul wa la:kinnahu takallam wa saʔal: ma:ða: turiid minniiʔ]

4. **فَتَعَبَ الْعَامِلُ وَلَكِنَّهُ اسْتَمَرَّ وَقَالَ: سَأُكْمِلُ الْعَمَلَ**

The worker was tired, but he continued and said: "I will complete the work." [fa-taʃiba l-ʔa:mil wa la:kinnahu istamarr wa qa:l: saʔukmil al-ʔamal]

5 Levantine (Shaami) Arabic Dialect

Levantine Version

نفاف اللص بس تشجع وقال: شو عم تعمل هون يا عم؟

Phonetic: [fa-xa:f il-liṣṣ bass tʃajjaʃ w-qa:l: ʃu: ʕam taʕmil ho:n ya: ʕammʔ]

Translation: The thief was afraid, but he gathered courage and said: "What are you doing here, man?"

Key Dialectal Changes:

- لَكِنْ → بس (bass) — "but" becomes simpler
- مَاذَا → شو (ʃu:) — "what" is simplified
- تَفْعَل → عم تعمل (ʕam taʕmil) — present continuous with عم
- هُنَا → هون (ho:n) — "here" with different vowel
- شَيْخ → عم (ʕamm) — informal address for older men
- Definite article: ال → ال (often pronounced as il-)

6 Additional Learning Notes

Cultural and Literary Context

Character Development: This phrase shows the thief's internal conflict and growing boldness. The progression from fear to courage to confrontation is typical of Arabic storytelling.

Politeness Markers: Even though confronting an intruder, the thief uses يَا شَيْخ (respectful address), showing Arabic cultural emphasis on politeness even in tense situations.

Dialogue Markers: The colon (:) and the interrogative structure create dramatic tension, common in Juha stories.

6.1 Memory Tips

1. **Emotional Arc:** Remember *Fear* → *Courage* → *Action* (خَوْف → شَجَاعَة → عَمَل)
2. **Conjunction Pattern:** ف...و...و creates narrative flow
3. **Form V Pattern:** تَفَعَّلَ follows the pattern تَفَعَّلَ for reflexive actions
4. **Question Structure:** verb present + مَاذَا is the standard "what are you doing" pattern

6.2 Related Vocabulary Family

Fear family:

خَوْفٌ — fear [xawf]

خَائِفٌ — afraid [xa:ʔif]

مُخِيفٌ — scary [muxiif]

تَخْوِيفٌ — intimidation [taxwiif]

Courage family:

شَجَاعَةٌ — courage [ʃaja:ʔa]

شُجَاعٌ — brave [ʃuja:ʔ]

تَشْجِيعٌ — encouragement [taʃjiif]

مُشَجِّعٌ — encouraging [muʃajjiif]