

Arabic Learning Poster

Juha and the Thief – Full Phrase Analysis

شَعَرَ جُحَا بِلَصِّ فِي دَارِهِ لَيْلاً، فَقَامَ إِلَى خِرَانَةِ 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	فعل (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:

شَعَرْتُ – I felt [ʃaʕartu]

شَعَرْتَ – you felt (m.) [ʃaʕarta]

شَعَرَتْ – she felt [ʃaʕarat]

أَشْعُرُ – I feel (pres.) [aʃʕuru]

يَشْعُرُ – he feels (pres.) [jaʃʕuru]

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]	الـلِّصَّ - the thief (acc.) [al-liṣṣa]
لِصٍّ - a thief (gen.) [liṣṣin]	الـلِّصِّ - 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 الصَّبَاح - 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 [dāruḥā]
 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	اللَّيْلُ, نَهَارًا وَلَيْلًا (day and night) [nahāran wa-laylan], 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 [alb̥u: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 liʃʃan fī l-maṭbaxi ʕabāḥan, faʔaxaʕa hātifahu waʔittaʕala biʃ-ʃurṭati]

5 Levantine (Shaami) Dialect Version

Modern Standard Arabic:

شَعَرَ جُحَا بِلَصٍّ 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 (ʿa “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.”
- خِرَانَةٌ 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).