

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

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Without Diacritics

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With Full Diacritics

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.

2 Detailed Word Analysis

2.1 وَبَحَثَ – wa-baḥatha [wabahaθa]

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

Conjugation Examples:

بَحَثْتُ – I searched [baḥaθtu]
 بَحَثْتَ – you searched (m.) [baḥaθta]
 بَحَثَتْ – she searched [baḥaθat]

يَبْحَثُ – he searches (pres.) [yabḥaθu]
 تَبْحَثُ – she searches (pres.) [tabḥaθu]

2.2 اللِّصُّ – al-liṣṣu [al:liṣ:u]

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 دَخَلَ الْبَيْتَ (the thief entered the house) [al-liṣṣu daxala l-bayta], اللُّصُوصُ يَسْرِقُونَ (the thieves steal) [al-luṣūṣu yasriqūn]

2.3 عَنْ – ʿan [ʿan]

Translation	about, for, from (preposition)
Grammar	Preposition governing genitive case
Examples	سَأَلَتْ عَنْ الْوَقْتِ (she asked about the time) [saʿalat ʿan al-waḥti], يَبْحَثُ عَنْ الْكِتَابِ (he searches for the book) [yabḥaθu ʿan al-kitābi]

2.4 شَيْءٌ – shayʿin [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 ʔindaka ʃajʔunʔ]

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 الْمَالَ (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 يَجِدِ 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-ي (r-ʔ-y)
Pattern	Form I, past tense, 3rd person masc. sing. with prefix فَ (then)
Examples	رَأَى الطِّفْلَ (he saw the child) [raʔā ʔ-ʔifla]

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

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

2.9 فَفَتَحَهَا – fa-fataḥahā [fa-fataḥa: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 وَآذَا – wa-ʿiḏā [wa ʔiðā]

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

2.11 بِجُحَا – bi-Juḥā [bi-dʒuḥa:]

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 fi s-sūqi]

2.12 فِيهَا – fī-hā [fi:ha:]

Translation	in it
Components	في (in) + ها (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 (**يَجِدُ**).
- The phrase **فَرَأَى الْخِزَانَةَ** shows a past verb with a direct object.
- Attached pronouns like in **فَفَتَحَهَا**, **يَسْرِقُهُ**, **فِيهَا** 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 ʕ-ʕāriʕi, 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 اللَّصُّ شَيْئًا يَسْرِقُهُ**

[*dawwar al-liṣṣ ʕa šī yisruquh*]

Translation: The thief searched for something to steal.