

Arabic Phrase Analyser

Why Am I Forced to Learn a Useless Language?

لم اُقْم في مَحِي لُغَةً لَا طَائِلَةَ مِنْهَا فِي الدُّنْيَا

Igor Deruga

Arabic Phrase with Full Diacritics

لَمْ أُقْمُ فِي مَحِي لُغَةً لَا طَائِلَةَ مِنْهَا فِي الدُّنْيَا؟

1 English Translation

Literal: Why am-I-forced in my-brain a-language no benefit from-it in the-world?

[Arabic order retained for direct mapping]

Adapted: Why am I forced to cram into my brain a language from which there is no benefit in this world?

2 Detailed Word Analysis

2.1 لِمَ — [lima]

Translation	why? / for what?
Root	Interrogative particle, not derived from root
Pattern	Composite: لِ (li-) + مَا (mā)
Grammar	Interrogative particle asking for reason/cause; لِ (preposition “for”) + مَا (“what”), with elided final alif
Examples	1. لِمَ تَبْكِي؟ — Why are you crying? [lima tabki:] 2. لِمَ لَمْ تَأْتِ أَمْسَ؟ — Why didn't you come yesterday? [lima lam taʔti ʔamsi] 3. لِمَ يُعَامِلُنَا هَكَذَا؟ — Why does he treat us this way? [lima juʔa:mi:luna: hakaða:]
Synonyms	لِمَاذَا (lima:ða: — why), لِأَيِّ شَيْءٍ (liʔajji ʃajʔin — for what thing)
Etymology	Combination of preposition لِ (for) + interrogative مَا (what)

Usage Notes

- لِمَ is a contraction of لِمَاذَا, more literary and concise
- Often used in rhetorical questions expressing frustration or complaint
- The لِ prefix adds purposive meaning (“for what purpose”)
- In Modern Standard Arabic, لِمَاذَا is more common in speech

2.2 أَقْم — [ʔuqḥamu]

Translation	I am forced / I am thrust / I am crammed
Root	ق-ح-م (q-ḥ-m)
Pattern	أَفْعُلُ (ʔuffalu) — Form IV passive imperfect
Grammar	Present passive verb, 1st person singular; indicates being forced into something unwillingly
Examples	1. أَقَمَّ نَفْسَهُ فِي الْمَشَاكِلِ — He thrust himself into problems [ʔaqḥama nafsahu fi: l-maʃa:kili] 2. لَا تُقَحِّمْنِي فِي هَذَا الْأَمْرِ — Don't drag me into this matter [la: tuqḥimni: fi: ha:ða: l-ʔamri] 3. أَقَمَّ الطَّالِبُ فِي امْتِحَانٍ صَعْبٍ — The student was thrust into a difficult exam [ʔuqḥima tʰ-tʰa:libu fi: mtiha:nin sʰaʃbin]
Synonyms	أُجْبِرُ (forced), أُرْغِمُ (compelled), أُحْشَرُ (stuffed/crammed)
Etymology	Root meaning: to thrust oneself, to plunge, to force entry

2.3 Conjugation — أَقْم (Form IV)

Verbal Noun: إِقْحَام /ʔiqḥa:m/ — forcing, thrusting

Person	Perfect (Past)	Imperfect (Present)
3rd m. sg.	أَقَمَّ /ʔaqḥama/	يُقَحِّمُ /juqḥimu/
3rd f. sg.	أَقَمَّتْ /ʔaqḥamat/	تُقَحِّمُ /tuqḥimu/
3rd m. dual	أَقَمَّا /ʔaqḥama:/	يُقَحِّمَانِ /juqḥima:ni/
3rd f. dual	أَقَمْتَا /ʔaqḥamata:/	تُقَحِّمَانِ /tuqḥima:ni/
3rd m. pl.	أَقَمُوا /ʔaqḥamu:/	يُقَحِّمُونَ /juqḥimu:na/
3rd f. pl.	أَقَمْنَ /ʔaqḥamna/	يُقَحِّمْنَ /juqḥimna/
2nd m. sg.	أَقَمْتِ /ʔaqḥamta/	تُقَحِّمُ /tuqḥimu/
2nd f. sg.	أَقَمْتِ /ʔaqḥamti/	تُقَحِّمِينَ /tuqḥimi:na/
2nd dual (m./f.)	أَقَمْتُمَا /ʔaqḥamtuma:/	تُقَحِّمَانِ /tuqḥima:ni/

Person	Perfect (Past)	Imperfect (Present)
2nd m. pl.	أَقَمْتُمْ /ʔaqħamtum/	تَقْحِمُونَ /tuqħimu:na/
2nd f. pl.	أَقَمْتُنَّ /ʔaqħamtunna/	تَقْحِمْنَ /tuqħimna/
1st sg.	أَقَمْتُ /ʔaqħamtu/	أَقِمُّ /ʔuqħimu/
1st pl.	أَقَمْنَا /ʔaqħamna:/	نَقْحِمُ /nuqħimu/

Passive Voice

Person	Perfect (Past)	Imperfect (Present)
3rd m. sg.	أُقِمَّ /ʔuqħima/	يُقْحَمُ /juqħamu/
1st sg.	أُقِمْتُ /ʔuqħimtu/	أُقِمُّ /ʔuqħamu/
1st pl.	أُقِمْنَا /ʔuqħimna:/	نُقْحَمُ /nuqħamu/

2.4 في — [fi:]

Translation	in / into / within
Root	Preposition, not root-based
Pattern	Simple preposition
Grammar	Preposition governing genitive case; indicates location, containment, or involvement
Examples	1. فِي الْبَيْتِ — In the house [fi: l-bajti] 2. يَعْمَلُ فِي الشَّرِكَةِ — He works in the company [jaʃ-malu fi: ʃ-ʃarikati] 3. فِي الْمَسَاءِ — In the evening [fi: l-masa:ʔi]
Synonyms	بِ (with/in), دَاخِلَ (inside), ضَمْنَ (within)
Etymology	Ancient Arabic preposition, cognate with Hebrew בִּי (be-)

2.5 مُخِّي — [muxxi:]

Translation	my brain
Root	م-خ-خ (m-x-x)
Pattern	فَع (fuʕʕ) with possessive suffix
Grammar	Noun, masculine, genitive case (after preposition فِي), with 1st person singular possessive suffix يِ
Examples	1. الْمُخُّ الْبَشَرِيُّ — The human brain [al-muxxu l-baʕarijju] 2. يُوْلِمْنِي مُخِّي — My brain hurts me [juʔlimuni: muxxi:] 3. مُخُّ الْإِنْسَانِ مُعْقَدٌ — The human brain is complex [muxxu l-ʔinsa:ni muʕaqqadun]
Synonyms	دِمَاغ (dima:y — brain), عَقْل (ʕaql — mind/intellect)
Etymology	Root م-خ-خ refers to marrow, brain substance

Full Declension with Possessive Suffixes

Case	Without Suffix	My brain	Your (m.) brain
Nominative	مُخٌّ /muxxun/	مُخِّي /muxxi:/	مُخُّكَ /muxxuka/
Accusative	مُخًّا /muxxan/	مُخِّي /muxxi:/	مُخُّكَ /muxxaka/
Genitive	مُخٍّ /muxxin/	مُخِّي /muxxi:/	مُخُّكَ /muxxika/

2.6 لُغَةٌ — [luyatan]

Translation	a language
Root	ل-غ-و (l-y-w)
Pattern	فَعْلَةٌ (fuʿala)
Grammar	Noun, feminine, accusative case (object of passive verb), indefinite with tanwin
Examples	1. أَتَعَلَّمُ لُغَةً جَدِيدَةً — I am learning a new language [ʔataʕallamu luyatan dʒadi:datan] 2. اللُّغَةُ الْعَرَبِيَّةُ — The Arabic language [al-luyatu l-ʕarabijjatu] 3. يَتَكَلَّمُ ثَلَاثَ لُغَاتٍ — He speaks three languages [jatakalamu θala:θa luya:tin]
Synonyms	لِسَانٌ (lisa:n — tongue/language), كَلَامٌ (kala:m — speech)
Etymology	From root meaning “to speak, to use language”; related to Hebrew לָשׁוֹן (lashon)

Full Declension

Number/Case	Indefinite	Definite	Plural Indefinite
Nominative sg.	لُغَةٌ /luyatun/	اللُّغَةُ /al-luyatu/	لُغَاتٌ /luya:tun/
Accusative sg.	لُغَةً /luyatan/	اللُّغَةَ /al-luyata/	لُغَاتٍ /luya:tin/
Genitive sg.	لُغَةٍ /luyatin/	اللُّغَةِ /al-luyati/	لُغَاتٍ /luya:tin/

2.7 لَا — [la:]

Translation	no / not
Root	Negative particle, not root-based
Pattern	Simple particle
Grammar	Negative particle; when followed by indefinite noun in accusative, acts as لَا النَّافِيَةُ لِلْجِنْسِ (categorical negation)
Examples	1. لَا أَحَدَ هُنَا — No one is here [la: ?ahada huna:] 2. لَا شَكَّ فِي ذَلِكَ — No doubt about that [la: ?akka fi: ða:lika] 3. لَا فَائِدَةَ مِنْ هَذَا — No benefit from this [la: fa:ʔi-data min ha:ða:]
Synonyms	لَيْسَ (negation verb), مَا (negative particle in some contexts)
Etymology	Ancient Semitic negative particle

2.8 طَائِلَةٌ — [tʰa:ʔilata]

Translation	benefit / use / advantage
Root	ط-و-ل (tʰ-w-l)
Pattern	فَاعِلَةٌ (fa:ʕila) — Form I active participle, feminine
Grammar	Noun/participle, feminine, accusative case (predicate after لَا), indefinite
Examples	1. لَا طَائِلَةَ مِنْ هَذَا الْعَمَلِ — No benefit from this work [la: tʰa:ʔilata min ha:ða: l-ʕamali] 2. طَائِلٌ تَحْتَ يَدِهِ — Abundant wealth in his possession [tʰa:ʔilun tahta jadihi] 3. مَالٌ طَائِلٌ — Abundant/considerable wealth [ma:lun tʰa:ʔilun]
Synonyms	فَائِدَةٌ (benefit), نَفْعٌ (utility), جَدْوَى (usefulness)
Etymology	From root meaning “to reach, to attain, to be abundant”

Usage Notes

- لَا طَائِلَةَ مِنْ primarily appears in the expression لَا طَائِلَةَ مِنْ (no benefit from)
- Can mean both “benefit” and “abundance/wealth” depending on context
- Literary and formal register; rarely used in colloquial speech

- The active participle form suggests “reaching/attaining” quality

2.9 مِنْهَا — [minha:]

Translation	from it / from her
Root	Preposition + pronoun
Pattern	هَـ + مِنْ
Grammar	Preposition مِنْ (from) + 3rd person feminine singular pronoun suffix هَـ referring to لُغَةُ
Examples	1. أَخَذْتُ مِنْهَا كِتَابًا — I took a book from her/it [ʔax-aðtu minħa: kita:ban] 2. تَعَلَّمْتُ مِنْهَا الْكَثِيرَ — I learned much from her/it [taʔallamtu minħa: l-kaθi:ra] 3. لَا بُدَّ مِنْهَا — It is inevitable/necessary [la: budda minħa:]
Related Forms	مِنْهُ (from him/it m.), مِنْكَ (from you m.), مِنِّي (from me)
Etymology	مِنْ is ancient preposition indicating source or origin

2.10 فِي الدُّنْيَا — [fi: d-dunja:]

Translation	in the world / in this life
Root	د-ن-و (d-n-w)
Pattern	فُتْلَى (funla:) — feminine comparative/superlative form
Grammar	Feminine noun, genitive case (after preposition), definite with article ال
Examples	1. الدُّنْيَا وَالْآخِرَةُ — This world and the hereafter [ad-dunja: wa-l-ʔa:xira] 2. أُمُورُ الدُّنْيَا — Worldly matters [ʔumu:ru d-dunja:] 3. حَيَاةُ الدُّنْيَا قَصِيرَةٌ — The life of this world is short [ħaja:tu d-dunja: qasʕi:ratun]
Synonyms	العَالَمَ (al-ʔa:lam — the world), الْحَيَاةَ (al-ħaja:t — life)
Etymology	From root meaning “to be near, low”; الدُّنْيَا means “the nearer/lower [life]” as opposed to the afterlife

Full Declension

Case	With Article	Meaning
Nominative	الدُّنْيَا /ad-dunja:/	the world (subject)
Accusative	الدُّنْيَا /ad-dunja:/	the world (object)
Genitive	الدُّنْيَا /ad-dunja:/	the world (after prep.)

Note: الدُّنْيَا is a diptote (partially declinable), appearing the same in all three cases

3 Phrase Analysis

Grammatical Structure:

Interrogative particle + passive present verb (1st person) + preposition + possessed noun (genitive) + indefinite noun (accusative) + negative particle + feminine noun/participle (accusative) + prepositional phrase with pronoun + prepositional phrase with definite noun

Key Grammar Points:

- **Rhetorical Question Structure:** لِمَ opens a complaint-style rhetorical question expressing frustration
- **Passive Voice:** أُقِمُّ (Form IV passive) emphasizes the speaker's lack of agency — being forced unwillingly
- **Metaphorical Expression:** فِي مِخْيِ (in my brain) is a vivid metaphor for forced memorization/learning
- **لَا Construction:** The negative particle with طَائِلَةً in accusative creates categorical negation (no benefit whatsoever)
- **Relative Clause:** لَا طَائِلَةَ مِنْهَا functions as an adjectival phrase modifying لُغَةً
- **Emphatic Context:** فِي الدُّنْيَا adds emphasis — not just "no benefit" but "no benefit in this entire world"
- **Register:** The phrase mixes formal classical structures (طَائِلَةً, أُقِمُّ) with emotional complaint
- **Pragmatic Function:** Expresses strong objection to mandatory language learning perceived as useless

3.1 Syntactic Breakdown

1. **لَمْ** — Interrogative adverb (asking for reason/purpose)
2. **أُنْقِمُ** — Main verb: passive imperfect, 1st person singular
3. **فِي مَحِيٍّ** — Prepositional phrase indicating location/manner
 - **فِي** — Preposition
 - **مَحِيٍّ** — Noun (genitive after preposition) + 1st person possessive suffix
4. **لُغَةً** — Direct object (accusative indefinite)
5. **لَا طَائِلَةَ مِنْهَا** — Adjectival relative clause modifying **لُغَةً**
 - **لَا** — Categorical negative particle
 - **طَائِلَةً** — Predicate noun (accusative after **لَا**)
 - **مِنْهَا** — Prepositional phrase with pronoun referring back to **لُغَةً**
6. **فِي الدُّنْيَا** — Adverbial prepositional phrase (scope/domain)

4 Similar Phrases for Practice

1. **لَمْ أَجْبُرْ عَلَى دِرَاسَةِ مَادَّةٍ لَا فَائِدَةَ مِنْهَا فِي حَيَاتِي؟**
 Why am I forced to study a subject from which there is no benefit in my life?
 [lima ʔudʒbaru ʕala: dira:sati ma:ddatin la: fa:ʔidata minha: fi: ʔajati:]
2. **لَمْ نَكَلِّفْ بِحِفْظِ مَعْلُومَاتٍ لَا نَفْعَ مِنْهَا فِي الْعَمَلِ؟**
 Why are we tasked with memorizing information from which there is no use in work?
 [lima nukallafu bihifðʕi maʕlu:martin la: nafʕa minha: fi: l-ʕamali]
3. **لَمْ يُفْرَضْ عَلَيْنَا تَعَلُّمُ شَيْءٍ لَا جَدْوَى مِنْهُ فِي الْمُسْتَقْبَلِ؟**
 Why is learning something from which there is no usefulness in the future imposed on us?
 [lima jufradʕu ʕalajna: taʕallumu ʕajʔin la: dʒadwa: minhu fi: l-mustaqbali]
4. **لَمْ أُلْزَمُ بِقِرَاءَةِ كُتُبٍ لَا طَائِلَةَ تَحْتَهَا لِلطَّلَّابِ؟**
 Why am I obliged to read books under which there is no benefit for students?
 [lima ʔulzamu biqira:ʔati kutubin la: tʕa:ʔilata tahtaha: li-tʕ-tʕulla:bi]

5. لماذا نُضْطَرُّ إِلَى حِفْظِ نُصُوصٍ لَا قِيَمَةَ لَهَا فِي الْوَاقِعِ ؟

Why must we be compelled to memorize texts that have no value in reality?

[lima:ða: nudˤtˤarru ʔila: ɧifðˤi nusˤu:sˤin la: qi:mata laha: fi: l-wa:qiʕi]

5 Levantine (Shaami) Arabic Dialect

Levantine Version

لَيْشَ عَمَّ يَحْشُرُوا بَمَحْيٍ لُغَةً مَا إِلْهَا فَايْدَةَ بِالْدِّنِّي؟

Phonetic: [le:ʃ ʕam jiħʃuru: bmuxxi: luɣa ma: ʔilha fa:jde bi-d-dini:]

Translation: Why are they cramming into my brain a language that has no benefit in this world?

Key Dialectal Changes:

- لَيْشَ (le:ʃ) → لَمْ — common Levantine interrogative for "why"
- عَمَّ يَحْشُرُوا (ʕam jiħʃuru:) → أَقَمَّ — active voice "they are cramming" with continuous marker عَمَّ
- Passive construction replaced with active 3rd person plural (impersonal "they")
- بَمَحْيٍ (bmuxxi:) → فِي مَحْيٍ — بَ replaces فِي in dialect
- لُغَةً (luɣa) → لُغَةً — no case endings in dialect
- مَا إِلْهَا فَايْدَةَ (ma: ʔilha fa:jde) → لَا طَائِلَةَ مِنْهَا — "it has no benefit" using possessive construction
- فَايْدَةَ (fa:jde) → طَائِلَةَ — more common dialectal word for "benefit"
- بِالْدِّنِّي (bi-d-dini:) → فِي الدُّنْيَا — dialectal pronunciation with بَ and final /i:/

5.1 Alternative Dialectal Versions

Egyptian:

لِيَهْ يَحْشُرُوا فِي دِمَاغِي لُغَةً مَا لَهَا شَ لَا زَمَةَ فِي الدِّنْيَا؟

[li:h biɣaħʃu: fi: dima:ɣi: luɣa malha:ʃ la:zma fi-d-dinjæ]

Gulf (Khaleeji):

لَيْشَ يَحْشُرُونَ بِرَاسِي لُغَةً مَا لَهَا فَايْدَةَ بِالْدِّنْيَا؟

[li:ʃ jiħʃiru:n bira:si: luɣa ma: laha: fa:jda bi-d-dinjæ]

6 Additional Learning Notes

Cultural and Pragmatic Context

Educational Critique: This phrase reflects a common student frustration across Arabic-speaking cultures regarding mandatory curriculum subjects perceived as impractical or irrelevant to real life.

Rhetorical Force: The use of **لِمَ** (why) rather than **لِمَاذَا** creates a more literary, serious tone, elevating the complaint beyond casual grumbling to principled objection.

Passive Voice Strategy: By using the passive **أُفْهِمَ**, the speaker emphasizes victimhood and lack of agency, implying criticism of an educational system or authority.

Metaphor Analysis: **فِي مِخْي** (in my brain) is more visceral than saying "taught to me" — it emphasizes forced insertion of unwanted knowledge.

Universal vs. Absolute: The phrase **فِي الدُّنْيَا** (in the world) creates hyperbolic emphasis — not just "no benefit to me" but "no benefit anywhere in existence."

Modern Relevance: This type of complaint has become increasingly common in discussions about education reform, particularly regarding classical language instruction or theoretical subjects.

6.1 Memory Tips

- Question Word:** **لِمَ** = **لِ** (for) + **مَا** (what) = "for what?" = *why?*
- Passive Recognition:** Form IV passive pattern: **أُفْعِلُ** (*?ufʕalu*) — notice the **أ** (u) prefix and **ع** (a) on middle radical
- Categorical Negation:** Remember **لَا** + *indefinite accusative noun* = *absolute negation*
 - **لَا رَجُلَ** — no man (at all)
 - **لَا فَائِدَةَ** — no benefit (whatsoever)
- Body Part + Learning:** Common metaphor pattern in Arabic:
 - **فِي مِخْي** — in my brain (forced memorization)
 - **فِي رَأْسِي** — in my head (thoughts)
 - **عَلَى لِسَانِي** — on my tongue (about to say)
- Complaint Structure:** **لِمَ** + *passive verb* + *negative consequence* is a productive pattern for expressing frustration

6. **طَائِلَة** **Recognition:** This formal word appears mainly in the fixed expression لَا طَائِلَة مِنْ (no benefit from)

6.2 Related Vocabulary Family

Learning/Education:

تَعَلَّمَ — learning [taʕallum]
 دِرَاسَة — study [dira:sa]
 حَفْظ — memorization [ħifðˤ]
 تَعْلِيم — teaching [taʕli:m]
 مُقَرَّر — curriculum [muqarrar]
 مَادَة — subject [mæ:dda]
 طَالِب — student [tʰa:lib]

Coercion/Force:

إِجْبَار — coercion [ʔidʒba:r]
 إِرْغَام — compulsion [ʔirɣa:m]
 إِزَام — obligation [ʔilza:m]
 فَرَض — imposition [fardˤ]
 اضْطِرَار — necessity [idʰtʰira:r]

Benefit/Utility:

فَائِدَة — benefit [fa:ʔida]
 نَفْع — utility [nafʕ]
 جَدْوَى — usefulness [dʒadwa:]
 قِيَمَة — value [qi:ma]
 أَهْمِيَة — importance [ʔahammijja]
 مَنَفْعَة — advantage [manfaʕa]

Futility/Uselessness:

عَبَث — futility [ʕabaθ]
 بَاطِل — vain/false [batʰil]
 لَا جَدْوَى — useless [la: dʒadwa:]
 عَقِيم — sterile/fruitless [ʕaqi:m]
 بِلَا طَائِل — pointless [bila: tʰa:ʔil]

Brain/Mind:

مُخ — brain [muxx]
 دِمَاغ — brain [dima:ɣ]
 عَقْل — mind/intellect [ʕaql]
 ذِهْن — mind [ðihn]
 فِكْر — thought [fikr]
 ذَاكِرَة — memory [ða:kira]

Language:

لُغَة — language [luya]
 لِسَان — tongue/language [lisa:n]
 لَهْجَة — dialect [lahdʒa]
 كَلَام — speech [kala:m]
 لُغَة أَجْنِبِيَة — foreign language
 لُغَة أُمّ — mother tongue

6.3 Grammar Drills

Practice: Form IV Passive Conjugation

Transform these Form IV active verbs to passive, 1st person singular:

- أَرْسَلَ (to send) → _____ [ʔursalu — I am sent]
- أَكْرَمَ (to honor) → _____ [ʔukramu — I am honored]

3. أَخْرَجَ (to expel) → _____ [ʔuxradʒu — I am expelled]
4. أَعْلَنَ (to announce) → _____ [ʔuʕlanu — I am announced]

Practice: لَا Negation

Complete these phrases with appropriate accusative forms:

1. رَجُلٌ [رَجُلٌ] لَا — فِي الْبَيْتِ (no man)
2. صَدِيقٌ [صَدِيقٌ] لَا — لَهُ (no friend)
3. فَائِدَةٌ [فَائِدَةٌ] لَا — مِنْ هَذَا (no benefit)
4. شَكٌّ [شَكٌّ] لَا — فِي ذَلِكَ (no doubt)

Practice: Building Rhetorical Questions

Create complaint questions using the pattern: لَمْ + *passive verb* + *negative clause*

Example: لَمْ أُعَاقَبْ عَلَى خَطَايَا لَمْ أَفْعَلْهُ؟

(Why am I punished for an error I didn't commit?)

7 Conclusion

This phrase exemplifies sophisticated Arabic rhetorical complaint structures, combining:

- Passive voice to emphasize lack of agency
- Categorical negation for absolute statements
- Vivid metaphor for cognitive imposition
- Formal register to lend gravity to complaint
- Hyperbolic scope (فِي الدُّنْيَا) for emphasis

The structure is highly productive and can be adapted to critique any mandatory activity perceived as useless — a pattern particularly relevant in educational and bureaucratic contexts throughout the Arabic-speaking world.