

CultureTalk Arab Levant Video Transcripts: <http://langmedia.fivecolleges.edu>  
From Saudi Arabia to Syria

**Levantine Arabic transcript:**

نجاح: انا طالبة بجامعة القلمون عم ادرس ادارة اعمال سنة رابعة، انا من حلب و امي حمصية فساكنة عن بيت جدي لانو اهلي عايشين بالسعودية.

سارة: اف كل هدول

نجاح: ايه كل هدا

سارة: انتي ولدتي بحلب و لا ولدتي بحمص؟

نجاح: لا ولدت بالسعودية، و اهلي لهلقتن بالسعودية، انا لما قررت اجي ادرس بالجامعة بسورية، قعدت بحمص لانو قريين من جامعتي، قاعدة عن بيت جدي و كل يوم بنزل و بطلع على الجامعة يعني، و صرت سنة رابعة ما بقيانلي شي بتخرج.

سارة: اهلك قدي صرلون بالسعودية؟

نجاح صرلون شي خمس و عشرين سنة تقريبا

سارة : اهه

نجاح: ماما انا تجوزت هنيك و لهلاتن عايشين هنيك، اخواتي لهلا عم يدرسو بمدارس بالسعودية.

سارة: ام، طيب شو السبب يعني انو ؟

نجاح: بابا هنيك بلش شغل من زمان و طلع من زمان قل ما يتجوز ماما، و هنيك شغلو، صار عم يلاقي صعوبة يجي هوني بيذا اي شغل جديد يعني

سارة: بس يعني بيتمنى انو ينزل

نجاح: ايه، على امل انو بعد شي تلت اربع سنين يجو

سارة: ليش ما فكرتي تدرسي بالسعودية؟ ليش فكرتي تنزلي على سورية تدرسي

نجاح: بصراحة هون الجو احلى و هون الحياة احلى و حبيبت انو هيك عيش شوية بحرية اكثر، نحنا هون البننت بتاخذ حريتها و بتطلع و بتروح و بتجي ما مثل السعودية.

سارة: يعني في فرق كتير بين الحياة بالسعودية و هون

نجاح: طبعا الحياة بالسعودية كتير منغلقة، جامعاتن كانى مدرسة، يعني ما بتقدرى تطلعي و تروحي لحالك، يا اما بدو يكون معك حدا ياخذك و يجيبك هوني غير شكل الحياة

سارة: طيب يعني وقت اللي اجيتي لهون على سوريا باعتبار انو لسه صرلك عمرك كلو عايشتي بالسعودية حسيتي بشغلات تغيرت عليك، شغلات حبيتها، شغلات كر هتيتها؟

نجاح: ايه طبعا ، يعني بتواجهي الحياة اكثر، في اشياء اكثر، يعني طبيعة الحياة مختلفة بين هنريك و هون، بس لانو انا كمان كنت كل صيف اجي و كنا نقضي يعني كل سنة انا بجي على سوريا يعني 3 اشهر بالصيف فماني بعيدة عن هذا الجو، نعودنا عليه يعني عايشين فيه.

طيب هلا صرلك تقريبا بالجامعة قلتي تخرج اخر سنة، صرلك اربع سنين هون، يعني بتحسي حالك انك مبسوفة بالبلد؟ حابة انك تبقي هون، بدي تسكني بحمص، و لا حبي تسكني بجلب؟؟

نجاح: لا مخطوبة، خطبت كمان خطيبي شامي فممكن اني روح عيش بالشام

### English translation:

**Najah:** I am a student in Kalamoon University, studying Business Administration in my fourth year. I am originally from Aleppo; my mom is from Homs, and I am living with my grandparents because my family lives in Saudi Arabia.

**Sarah:** Oh! All that?

**Najah:** Yes, all that.

**Sarah:** Were you born in Aleppo, or in Homs?

**Najah:** No, I was born in Saudi, and my parents are still in Saudi. When I decided to come study here at a Syrian university, I stayed in Homs, because it is close to my university. I am staying at my grandparents, and I go to the university on a daily basis. I am in my fourth year right now, and I will graduate soon.

**Sarah:** How long have your parents been in Saudi?

**Najah:** They have been there for about 25 years.

**Sarah:** Aha.

**Najah:** Mom got married there, and they have been living there. My brothers are still studying in Saudi schools.

**Sarah:** Um, what is the reason behind that?

**Najah:** Dad started a business there a long time ago, and he moved there before getting married to my mom -- it is his job. He finds it difficult to come here and start a new business.

**Sarah:** You mean, he does wish to come back.

**Najah:** Yes, with a hope that after three to four years, they can come back.

**Sarah:** Why didn't you consider studying in Saudi? Why did you think of coming down to Syria to study?

**Najah:** Frankly, the weather here is much nicer; life is much better, and I like living with more freedom. A girl here can have her own freedom ... go out and come back, unlike Saudi.

**Sarah:** You mean there is a big difference between life here and Saudi.

**Najah:** Of course, life in Saudi Arabia is much more closed. Their universities are more like schools, meaning you can't go out on your own; you would have to have somebody with you to take you around. Here, life is different.

**Sarah:** Okay, when you came here to Syria, since you have been living all your life in Saudi Arabia, have you felt things changing? Things you liked? Things you didn't like?

**Najah:** Of course, here you face life more; there are more things. Of course, the nature of life is different between here and there. But since I used to come every summer, and we would spend every year, and I would come to Syria for three months in the summer, I am not that far from the atmosphere here. We got used to it; we already lived it.

**Sarah:** Okay, now you have been in university. You said you're graduating and this is your last year, so you have been here for four years. Do you feel happy about the country? Would you like to stay here -- perhaps live in Homs, or Aleppo?

**Najah:** No, I am engaged, and my fiancé is from Damascus, so I will probably live in Damascus.

**About CultureTalk:** CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use everyday. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

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