

Dubai is a superlative-craving city in the United Arab Emirates. The city can boast having the world's tallest building and the world's biggest mall. It is home to the planet's tallest hotel and the fastest roller-coaster. Dubai has built an artificial island in the sea shaped like an enormous palm tree and a colossal indoor ski paradise. With many more grand projects in the pipeline planned for World Expo 2020, a visit to Dubai increasingly feels like a journey into the future.

The **Burj Khalifa** is a ground-breaking feat of architecture and engineering, with two observation decks on the 124th and 148th floors and a restaurant bar on the 122nd. The world's tallest building, Burj Khalifa's 163 floors are built around a hexagonal core. It was first opened in 2010, a mere six years after excavations began. Up to 13,000 workers toiled day and night, building a new floor in as little as three days. Standing tall at 828 metres, the Burj Khalifa is all about grandeur and splendour and has rightly earned the title of the 'Jewel of Dubai'. The very tip of the spire of Burj Khalifa can be seen from up to 95 kms away, making it a wondrous sight for those flying in to Dubai.

Dubai Fountain is the largest dancing fountain in the world. It is illuminated by 6,600 lights and 25 colour projectors that create a visual spectrum of over 1,000 abstract attractions. Its beam of light can be seen from over 20 miles away, and is visible from space, making it the brightest spot in the Middle East.

Incredibly developed in the middle of the desert, **Dubai Miracle Garden** is the largest natural flower garden in the world. The 72,000-square-metre colourful garden has more than 45 million flowers fashioned into the shapes of hearts, stars, igloos, pyramids, flower-decked vintage cars and even a life sized A380 aeroplane. The blooming season in Dubai lasts from mid-October to mid-May, so the garden will close for the rest of the year during the hottest period – a break that will give organizers the chance to completely redesign it ready for the next season.

The Dubai Museum charts Dubai's stratospheric rise from a tiny Bedouin fishing village to a global centre of trade and tourism. Built in 1799 and the oldest surviving building in Dubai, the museum is housed within the Al-Fahidi Fort and has served as a residence for the ruling family, a seat of government, garrison and prison. The museum houses a collection of old maps of Dubai, illustrating the colossal expansion that occurred in the region after the oil boom in the 1970s. Most of the artefacts at Dubai Museum are housed underground in Al Fahidi Fort, to protect them from the searing heat. At the entrance to the museum, there lies a dhow - a traditional fishing boat - as a tribute to Dubai's traditional fishing heritage.

Environmentalists have criticized many Dubai megaprojects, but perhaps none more so than the **Palm Islands**. The massive dredging required to build the artificial island has drastically changed the wave, temperature and erosion patterns in the Persian Gulf, and a whole square mile of coral was killed. Developers dropped two American fighter jets on the seafloor to create new reefs, and claim that Palm Jumeirah's breakwater will continue to bring more marine life to the area, but the World Wildlife Fund still insists that the UAE is five times more unsustainable than any other country on Earth.

1 How long does the blooming season last each year in Dubai?

- A Six months.
 - B All year round.
 - C Seven months.
 - D Three months.
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2 What mode of transport is a dhow?

- A A fishing vessel.
 - B An electric tram.
 - C A rollercoaster
 - D A railway carriage.
-

3 Which event triggered the huge development in Dubai?

- A Expo 2020.
 - B The oil boom in the 1970s.
 - C A visit from the American President, Richard Nixon.
 - D The opening of the Suez Canal.
-

4 What is the advantage of displaying the Dubai Museum's artefacts underground?

- A There is more space underground meaning the museum can display more exhibits.
- B The exhibits can be seen more clearly as they are away from the glaring sunlight.
- C Visitors can keep more cool underground.
- D The exhibits are protected from the scorching heat.

5 According to the text, which of the following phrases could best describe a visit to modern Dubai?

- A An insight into the future.
 - B A complex and cramped building site.
 - C A hideously expensive novelty destination.
 - D A cold, inhospitable experience.
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6 What was Dubai before the vast development that has transformed the city into the trade and tourism centre that it is today?

- A It was just a vast, barren desert.
 - B It was a popular haunt for surfers.
 - C It was a small fishing village.
 - D It was mainly made up of small farms.
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7 How many sides to the building form the heart of Burj Khalifa?

- A Ten
 - B Seven.
 - C Eight.
 - D Six.
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8 For how long is the Dubai Miracle Garden closed each year?

- A It is closed for six months.
- B Five months.
- C Three months.
- D It is closed whenever the weather is cloudy.

9 Which of the following words or phrases could best describe Burj Khalifa?

- A Tasteless.
 - B Unstable.
 - C Magnificent and luxurious.
 - D Dark and gloomy.
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10 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 Building commenced on Burj Khalifa in 2004.
 - Option 2 The construction of the Palm Islands resulted in extra coral growing in the Persian Gulf.
 - Option 3 Burj Khalifa is known as 'The Jewel in the Crown'.
 - Option 4 The highest observation deck is situated 15 floors below the tip of Burj Khalifa.
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- A Options 1 and 3.
 - B Option 2 only.
 - C Options 1 and 4.
 - D Option 3 only.
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Synonyms and antonyms

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

prickly

rough

coarse

soft

wiry

discourage

cajole

coax

tempt

lure

comrade

pal

companion

ally

enemy

Synonyms and antonyms

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

dismiss

reject

decline

accept

refuse

crush

wreck

demolish

destroy

construct

joy

anguish

despair

misery

sorrow

Synonyms and antonyms

Three of the words are synonyms, one is an antonym, please can you spot the antonym?

abhor

adore

despise

hate

detest

unkempt

scruffy

dishevelled

untidy

dapper

repel

coax

entice

lure

attract

Please can you select the most appropriate adjective from the table on the top that can be placed before each noun in the box at the bottom?

I've done the first one for you:

1

polished ✓
public
precious
pure
backward

glance
genius
polished floorboard
footpath
gem

2

opaque
lush
firm
annoying
sheer

habit
glass
grass
happiness
grasp

3

bright
healthy
invaluable
cruel
total

help
headlights
honesty
heart
hoax

4

thick
correct
minor
rude
hilarious

joke
injury
information
ice
interruption

Comprehension

1	ramble
2	rapid
3	ration
4	recite
5	resemble
6	resist
7	restrict
8	revolve
9	robust
10	rumour
11	raft
12	recall
13	refuse
14	release
15	remarkable
16	research
17	reserve
18	reptile
19	retire
20	rival

1	C	Seven months.
2	A	A fishing vessel.
3	B	The oil boom in the 1970s.
4	D	The exhibits are protected from the scorching heat.
5	A	An insight into future.
6	C	It was a small fishing village.
7	D	Six.
8	B	Five months.
9	C	Magnificent and luxurious.
10	C	Options 1 and 4.

Antonyms

1	soft
2	discourage
3	enemy
4	accept
5	construct
6	joy
7	adore
8	dapper
9	repel

1	polished floorboard
	public footpath
	precious gem
	pure genius
	backward glance

2	opaque glass
	lush grass
	firm grasp
	annoying habit
	sheer happiness

3	bright headlights
	healthy heart
	invaluable help
	cruel hoax
	total honesty

4	thick ice
	correct information
	minor injury
	rude interruption
	hilarious joke