

Reading

- 1 Would you like to visit Dubai? Why/Why not?
- 2 Read texts A–E and answer the questions.
 - 1 What equipment do you need to bring with you in Ski Dubai?
 - 2 How far off the coast is The World?
 - 3 When was oil discovered in Dubai?
 - 4 Where are you not expected to pay a fixed price for your shopping?
 - 5 Which are the cheapest months to go shopping in Dubai?
 - 6 Which shopping areas are open at lunchtime?

Vocabulary | describing places

- 1 Look at the photos of Dubai in the past and today. What adjectives would you use to describe the pictures?

exciting busy lively dull peaceful dirty crowded clean quiet noisy modern traditional beautiful unique impressive (un)attractive friendly



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- 2 Describe your favourite city using the adjectives in Exercise 1.

A



The Coolest Place in Dubai

Ski Dubai is the first indoor ski resort in the Middle East and offers an amazing snow setting to enjoy skiing, snowboarding and tobogganing or just playing in the snow – all year round.

- * 22,500 m² covered with real snow all year round
- * Temperature maintained at a comfortable -1° to -2°
- * Full capacity of 1,500 guests
- * Hire of all equipment and clothing included in the ticket price
- * Qualified professional instructors

B

Dubai

A unique investment opportunity, and the ultimate address.

The World is 300 man-made islands in the shape of a map of the world, lying 4 km off the sun-drenched coast of Dubai. Measuring approximately 9 km by 7 km, the development will be visible to the naked eye from space.

A one-of-a-kind, secluded, and exclusive island community, **The World** will be the most desirable address on the planet.

Register your interest now.

C

DUBAI

Dubai was originally a small settlement whose inhabitants lived by fishing and diving for pearls. By the turn of the last century, it was already becoming an important trading port. However, it was the discovery of oil in 1966 which began the rapid pace of development which continues today. In 1971, Dubai joined with five other states, later six, to create the United Arab Emirates. The Dubai Museum traces the amazing story of this great city flowering in the desert, with displays covering the history of Dubai from the first millennium bc to the present day.

D

As part of your shopping experience, be sure to visit some of the old souqs, or markets. The Gold Souk, Sikkat al-Khali Street, offers some great deals on gold necklaces, rings, bangles, earrings and brooches, with gold prices among the lowest in the world. Bargaining is the norm in all of the souqs, which are generally open daily, 07.00 a.m. – 12.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. (closed Friday morning).

E

DUBAI is known as the shopping capital of the Middle East. Prices are relatively low and there's a huge range of goods on offer. The Dubai Shopping Festival, held from January to February, and Dubai Summer Surprises, held in July and August, are two massive attractions, with all the big stores and almost every shop in Dubai cutting their prices significantly.

Dubai's shops are open 08.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m. and 4.30 p.m. – 8.00/9.00. Many shops are closed on Friday. Larger malls are open 10.00 a.m. – 10.00 p.m.. Shops and malls are closed on Friday mornings.

Reading

- 1 Read the text quickly. Find what these numbers and numerical expressions refer to.

25 100 billion 8th 1.25 million
25 million 200 900 400 18 50
200,000 9.7 billion 777

READING SKILLS

To find what these numbers refer to you will need to 'skim' the text. Look quickly at each line of the text just to find the numbers. Then read the surrounding text more carefully to check what they refer to.

- 2 Read the text. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

EXAM SKILLS

Find the part of the text that has the answer, then read it carefully. There will often be a 'trick'. In question 1, for example, the text says properties in Jumeirah Palm Island are sold out, but not in The World.

- 1 Properties in 'The World' are now sold out.
- 2 You can reach the top of Burj Dubai in less than a minute.
- 3 Guests walk into Hydropolis from the beach.
- 4 Hydropolis can even affect the local weather.
- 5 Dubailand is much bigger than Disneyland.
- 6 Dubai will soon have two new airports.
- 7 Dubai's future depends on its oil and gas.

- 3 Discuss these questions with other students.
 - What other cities do you know that are changing fast?
 - What are the advantages and disadvantages of modernisation?

The Fastest Growing City on Earth

With up to 25% of the world's cranes in Dubai at the moment, people are calling it the 'Mushroom City' Jon Carrey reports.

Dubai is growing faster than any city on Earth. In this twenty-mile-long strip of the Persian Gulf, about \$100 billion worth of construction projects are either underway, or planned for the near future. Off the coast, new man made islands are being created. There are the three famous off-shore 'palms', said to be the eighth wonder of the world, featuring luxury hotels, residential villas and apartments, restaurants, shopping malls, sports and entertainment facilities and, of course, beaches.

Three weeks after the sales started for the Jumeirah Palm Island, the residential properties were sold out. It is said that the buyers – many of them are celebrities – paid more than \$1.25 million for a luxury villa with pool and landing stage. The new development, The World, man-made islands in the shape of a map of the world, looks likely to be even more expensive than the Palms, with the price of each island about \$25 million. Could this be the most expensive real estate in the world?

If Dubai does something, it doesn't do it by halves. Business Bay, the new central business district in Dubai, is currently under construction. More than 200 new skyscrapers are being built, among them Burj Dubai, the world's tallest building. At around 900 metres tall, it is 400 metres taller than the Taipei Tower. Getting to the top isn't a problem though, as it also has the world's fastest elevator. At 18 metres a second, or 40 miles per hour, you can reach the top in about 50 seconds.

Then there's Hydropolis – the world's first underwater hotel, in the shape of a jellyfish. Guests enter Hydropolis from the beach, taking a train



through a transparent tunnel which connects the land with the underwater hotel. The hotel features a ballroom, a concert auditorium, a museum, a library, three restaurants, a shopping mall, a spa and a pool. It even produces its own clouds to protect the guests from Dubai's sun.

Everything is bigger and better in Dubai. Disneyland is not as big as the new theme park planned for the area, Dubailand. In fact, Dubailand is twice the size of its rival. The biggest shopping mall in the world is already in Dubai but there will be a bigger one in Dubailand, the Mall of Arabia. Another planned feature is the Great Dubai Wheel, which will be the largest ferris wheel in the world. Dubailand is expected to attract 200,000 visitors daily.

Dubai Airport is currently being extended and another completely new airport is planned. To fill these airports, Emirates, the national airline, recently placed the best order that Boeing had ever had: \$9.7bn for forty-two 777s. They have also ordered a fleet of the biggest Airbuses available. Why is Dubai developing so fast? Dubai has a lot less oil and gas than its neighbour Abu Dhabi and so, the ruling family, the Maktoums, have decided to make Dubai the trading and financial centre of the Emirates. Dubai sits on the busiest trading route of the modern world: China, India, the Middle East, Europe and the US. That is where the money is going to be. China has become the third biggest economy in the world and it is the fastest growing. India is also growing fast. The Maktoum plan is to make Dubai not just the modern centre of the Arab world but, more than that, the Arab centre of the modern world.