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# Dubai's new giant

WORKSHEET A

With hundreds of fireworks and a party for 6,000 people, the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa tower in Dubai (one of seven territories that make up the United Arab Emirates, a country situated in the Middle East next to Saudi Arabia and Oman) was inaugurated on the night of January 4<sup>th</sup> this year.

The Burj Khalifa measures 828 metres – so high that on clear days it can be seen from 90km away. There is a noticeable difference in air temperature between the top of the tower and the base, with the former generally around eight degrees centigrade cooler than the latter.

Building work on the tower began in 2004 and, according to the tower's official website, has taken 22 million hours of human labour. While it was being built it was known as the Burj Dubai, but the name was changed in honour of the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa.

The 160-floor tower, the inside of which is not yet completely finished, will contain approximately 1,000 apartments and 50 floors of offices, a hotel, the world's highest swimming pool (on the 76<sup>th</sup> floor) and the world's highest mosque (158<sup>th</sup> floor). More than 10,000 people will either live or work inside, and thanks to the world's fastest lifts, capable of travelling at up to 60 kilometres per hour, it shouldn't take them too long to reach the upper floors.

To ensure that the tower would be strong and stable was a great challenge for the engineers who worked on the tower, not least because Dubai often has very strong winds.

The Burj Khalifa is more than 300 metres higher than what was previously the world's tallest inhabited building, the 508-metre Taipei 101 tower in Taiwan, and more than 500 metres higher than the very famous building that was the tallest in the world 100 years ago – the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. As for the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt, which was probably the tallest man-made structure for 4,000 years between about 2,500 BC and the 14<sup>th</sup> century AD, at 146 metres it would look rather small alongside Dubai's new giant.

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## Dubai's new giant

WORKSHEET B

### Exercise 1

#### Team A

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team B will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. The Middle East
  2. The building work on the tower
  3. 828 metres
  4. From 90 kilometres away
  5. 160
  6. Saudi Arabia and Iran
  7. Seven
  8. 146 metres / Approximately 150 metres
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### Exercise 1

#### Team B

Here are the answers to some questions about the text on Worksheet A, but what are the questions? When you have prepared the questions, Team A will have to answer them as part of a quiz.

1. It is in Taiwan.
2. The Eiffel Tower
3. It is part of the United Arab Emirates.
4. The Great Pyramid of Giza
5. It was known as the Burj Dubai.
6. A mosque / The world's highest mosque
7. Fireworks
8. 508 metres / Approximately 500 metres

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# Dubai's new giant

WORKSHEET C

## Exercise 2

The text from Worksheet A has been copied below, but contains some mistakes. Twenty of the words in bold are incorrect, and five are correct. Decide which are incorrect, and correct them.

With hundreds of (1) **fires** and a party for 6,000 people, the world's tallest building, the Burj Khalifa tower in Dubai (one of seven (2) **territories** that (3) **make** the United Arab Emirates, a country (4) **situate** in the Middle East next to Saudi Arabia and Oman) was (5) **inaugurated** on the night of January 4<sup>th</sup> this year.

The Burj Khalifa (6) **messes** 828 metres – so high that on clear days it can be seen from 90km away. There is a noticeable difference in air temperature between the top of the tower and the (7) **bass**, with the (8) **four** generally around eight degrees centigrade cooler than the (9) **later**.

Building work on the tower began in 2004 and, (10) **according** the tower's official website, has taken 22 million hours of human labour. While it was being built it was known as the Burj Dubai, but the name was changed (11) **in honour of** the president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikh Khalifa.

The 160-floor tower, the inside of which is not yet completely finished, will contain approximately 1,000 apartments and 50 floors of offices, a hotel, the world's highest swimming pool (on the 76<sup>th</sup> floor) and the world's highest (12) **mosket** (158<sup>th</sup> floor). More than 10,000 people will either live or work inside, and (13) **thanks** the world's fastest (14) **litter**, capable of travelling at up to 60 kilometres per hour, it shouldn't take them too long to reach the upper floors.

To (15) **sure** that the tower would be strong and (16) **estable** was a great challenge for the (17) **engines** who worked on the tower, not least because Dubai often has very strong winds.

The Burj Khalifa is more than 300 metres (18) **more high** than what was previously the world's tallest (19) **inhabited** building, the 508-metre Taipei 101 tower in Taiwan, and more than 500 metres higher than the very famous building that was the tallest in the world 100 years ago – the Eiffel Tower in Paris, (20) **Franca**. As for the Great (21) **Pymid** of Giza in Egypt, which was probably the tallest (22) **man-make** structure for 4,000 years between about 2,500 (23) **CB** and the 14<sup>th</sup> century (24) **AD**, at 146 metres it would look rather small (25) **along** Dubai's new giant.