



مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم
Abu Dhabi Education Council



ADEC ENGLISH TEACHING RESOURCE BANK

GRADE 12 | TRIMESTER 2
BURJ KHALIFA



Before you read

Consider the following questions.

- 1) What do you know about the Burj Khalifa? The text you are going to read is about the Burj Khalifa. What kind of information do you think it will contain? Check the topics that you think it will cover in the list below.
 - A) Life in the desert in the past
 - B) Information about the Dubai Mall
 - C) How long the Burj Khalifa took to build
 - D) The height of the Burj Khalifa
 - E) The role of Islam in Emirati society
- 2) Now read the text and check your predictions.

Burj Khalifa – The Tallest Tower in the World!



1) The world's tallest building is located in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. Building the Burj Khalifa required a combination of dreams and science.

2) Standing at over 828 meters with more than 160 floors, the Burj Khalifa holds the following world records as of 2014: tallest building, tallest free-standing structure, highest number of stories (floors), highest occupied floor, highest outdoor observation deck, elevator with the longest travel distance and the tallest service elevator.

3) Architect Adrian Smith included patterns from traditional Islamic architecture. His biggest inspiration was a local desert flower called Hymenocallis.

4) Excavation work began in January 2004 and over the following years the building passed many important milestones in its progress to become the tallest man-made structure the world has ever seen. Only 1,325 days after the excavation work started the Burj Khalifa became the tallest structure in the world. This amazing structure was completed in 2010. The vast project involved more than 380 skilled engineers and on-site technicians.

Reading Comprehension

Read the text and answer the questions.

Decide whether the following statements are true (T), false (F) or not given (NG) according to the text. The first one is done as an example.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| 0) The Burj Khalifa is in Dubai. | (T) / F / NG |
| 1) The Burj is over 900 m tall. | T / F / NG |
| 2) It contains more than 160 floors. | T / F / NG |
| 3) According to the text, the Burj holds four world records. | T / F / NG |
| 4) Adrian Stone was the architect who designed the building. | T / F / NG |
| 5) A desert tree inspired the design of the Burj Khalifa. | T / F / NG |
| 6) The Burj has a very pleasant view of the sea. | T / F / NG |
| 7) Excavation work began in 2004. | T / F / NG |
| 8) The Burj was completed in 2011. | T / F / NG |

Vocabulary

Find these words in the text. Match them with their synonyms. The first one is done as an example.

- | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------------------------------------|
| 0) high | — | A) tall |
| 1) engineer | | B) middle |
| 2) vast | | C) person who designs buildings |
| 3) important | | D) outstanding |
| 4) core | | E) lift (noun, similar to an escalator) |
| 5) located | | F) person who oversees building work |
| 6) amazing | | G) outer part of the building |
| 7) architect | | H) situated |
| 8) exterior | | I) big |
| 9) elevator | | J) significant |



Grammar

Non-defining relative clauses

Non-defining relative clauses add extra information to a sentence, e.g. *The house, which is large and spacious inside, is for sale.* The non-defining relative clause is separated from the rest of the sentence with commas and uses *where* for places and relative pronouns (*whose, which, who*) for people or objects. If we remove the non-defining relative clause, the sentence still makes sense, e.g. *The house is for sale.*

Complete these non-defining relative clauses with *where* or the correct relative pronoun, e.g. *which, whose* or *who*. Don't forget to include commas. The first one is done as an example.

- 0) Adrian Smith, *who* is an architect, included patterns from traditional Islamic architecture.
- 1) The Burj Khalifa _____ stands at over 828 m holds many world records.
- 2) Adrian Smith _____ favorite flower is Hymenocallis used the desert flower as inspiration for the tower.
- 3) Dubai _____ the Burj Khalifa is located is one of the seven Emirates in the U.A.E.
- 4) The 1,200 workers _____ assisted on the project represented over 100 nationalities.
- 5) The concrete _____ weighed more than 110,000 tons was used to construct the concrete and steel foundation.
- 6) The building _____ passed many important milestones quickly became the tallest man-made structure ever seen.

Critical Thinking

Discuss the following questions.

- 1) What difficulties do you think the architect and engineers might have faced when building the Burj Khalifa? Consider the following: language, weather, resources.
- 2) Describe the Burj Khalifa using as many interesting verbs and adjectives as possible.

Writing

Choose one of the following topics. Write a paragraph in your notebook.

- 1) If you could visit any building in the world, which would it be and why? Try to include details about the design and history of the building as well as your personal reflections.
- 2) If you were given the chance to design a building, what would it be? Write details about its location, appearance, shape and what would inspire you to build it.

Extension

Find out about another famous building, either in the U.A.E. or abroad. Prepare a short presentation for your class.

Name of building: _____

Country/location: _____

When was it built? _____

What makes it special? _____

Why do you like it/dislike it? _____