

The Emirates Palace

The most expensive hotel ever built opens this month in Abu Dhabi. Will it increase visitor numbers to the United Arab Emirates?

1 Practise saying the following figures.

£2 billion	£8,000	2,600	1 million square metres	40 metres
£1.5 billion	£5,000	120	1,200	175 metres

2 Complete the chart with some of the figures in exercise 1. Check your answers by scanning the article below.

The Emirates Palace hotel statistics			
Cost to build		Height of entrance arch	
Cost per night to stay in a suite		Length of public lounge	
Number of employees		Area of hotel land	

A seven star hotel

Nobody knows exactly how much it cost to build, but officials estimate that £2 billion went into constructing the world's most expensive hotel, which opens this month in Abu Dhabi, UAE. The statistics are incredible. To stay in a suite will cost £8,000 per night! The arch at the entrance is an amazing 40 metres high, and the public lounge is 175 metres long. The state-of-the art conference facilities include a meeting room which seats 1,200. Around 2,600 people work in the hotel.

The Emirates Palace has restaurants serving food from all over the world. Try the Italian restaurant if you would like to listen to an opera singer perform while you eat! At one

restaurant, you can choose the fish you would like to eat from those swimming in the aquarium around the wall. A plasma television screen in your room allows you to watch the latest films, choose from 120 TV channels, listen to your choice of thousands of music albums or, of course, connect to the Internet.

An architectural landmark set in 1 million square metres of land, this magnificent palace will surely increase the number of visitors to the UAE, although only the richest can afford to stay at this seven star hotel! Many people will think it is wrong to build such an expensive hotel. It is unlikely to ever make a profit. The guests will just enjoy the luxury!

3 Read the whole article. Do you think it was a good idea to build the Emirates Palace hotel?

4 Find words in the article from their definitions.

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| (a) to guess or calculate an amount by using available information | (paragraph 1) |
| (b) a group of numbers that represent facts | (paragraph 1) |
| (c) very new and modern | (paragraph 1) |
| (d) a famous building or object that you can easily recognise | (paragraph 3) |
| (e) to have enough money to pay for something | (paragraph 3) |
| (f) money you get when you sell something for more than it costs to make | (paragraph 3) |

Definitions from or based on *Macmillan Essential Dictionary*. Text © Bloomsbury Publishing Plc 2003

5 Complete the questionnaire from a business travel company. Compare your answers in small groups.

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Please complete the information below. Give reasons for your answers.

- The best restaurant I've ever been to:
- The best hotel I've ever stayed at:
- The best conference venue I've ever attended: