

The world's tallest building

There are plans to build the world's tallest building in Delhi, India. It is not always easy to decide exactly which is the tallest building in the world. Just why do countries want to keep on building higher and higher?

1 Match each adjective to its opposite(s). Make phrases with the adjectives e.g. 'a large company'.

tall	small	high	big	large	short
rich	beautiful	low	weak	slow	good
long	strong	fast	ugly	bad	poor

2 Which is the tallest building in the world? Scan paragraph 2 of the article to check your answer.

- (a) *Petronas Towers*, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (b) *Taipei 101*, Taipei, Taiwan
 (c) *Sears Tower*, Chicago, USA (d) *CN Tower*, Toronto, Canada

'And the tallest building will be...'

There are plans to build a record-breaking skyscraper in the Delhi suburb of Noida. It will be 710 metres tall – over 200 metres higher than Taipei 101. It is scheduled to open for business by 2013. The plan includes a 50-floor five-star hotel. The building aims to attract tourists, shoppers and offices. The project is already attracting foreign investment. Noida has grown dramatically in the last ten years due to the call centre industry. As the electricity supply is not always guaranteed, the building will need its own power plant to ensure the lifts do not stop!

It is not easy to decide which is the tallest building in the world. How do we measure the height of the building? Do we include the spire? Many people do not count the CN Tower in Toronto (559 metres) as they say it is a tower, not a building. The Sears building (442 metres) is tallest to the top of the antenna. Petronas Towers (452 metres) took the title in

1996 as the spires are higher than the actual roof of the Sears building. Now the title 'World's tallest building' is with Taipei 101 (509 metres). Taipei 101 has the fastest lifts in the world. They travel at 17 metres per second, reaching the viewing area in just 37 seconds. The building, with its beautiful views over the capital, is designed to resist even strong earthquakes.

Before the announcement from India, the previous record for the tallest planned building was the Burj tower in Dubai, also over 700 metres. Why do countries want to build so high? First it was the US, now Asia. This trend seems to celebrate a country's culture and economic growth. Nowadays, 'the bigger the better' for these growing economies! After 9 / 11, there are many risks in building so tall. Nevertheless, many expect the Burj tower to add on a few new floors in order to take the next title! The race is on ... it is possible that Shanghai plan a skyscraper that may beat Taipei 101 in 2007!

3 Read the whole article. Which countries are planning tall buildings? Why do you think that countries want to build such tall structures? What are the dangers in building so high?

4 Complete the following table. Create sentences using some of the words.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
tall		
	higher than	
		the fastest
beautiful		
	better than	

5 Work in small groups. Make a list of three or four cities, countries or companies. Write five sentences describing them, using adjectives, comparatives and / or superlatives. Present your descriptions to the class.