

## 2020 Dubai Expo opens to 'astonish the world'

4th October, 2021



The 2020 Dubai Expo has finally opened after being delayed by the covid-19 pandemic. An extravagant opening ceremony ushered in the global event, which will run until March 2022. A host of stars from the music world joined the spectacular ceremony.

These included the world-renowned opera singer Andrea Bocelli, China's flamboyant pianist Lang Lang and Saudi Arabian singer Mohammed Abdu. International news agencies reported on the dazzling ceremony. CNN said: "Dubai doesn't do anything by half. The city always goes big." The Reuters news agency wrote about "the lavish ceremony of fireworks, music and messaging about the power of global collaboration for a more sustainable future".

The World Expo is a global event that takes place in a different city every five years. Its aims are to showcase solutions to fundamental challenges faced by humanity, and to bring people of the world together. Organizers of the Dubai Expo selected the theme: "Connecting Minds, Creating the Future". The Expo will also be dedicated to the sub-themes of sustainability, mobility and opportunity. It is the first Expo to be held in the Middle East. Over the next six months, 25 million visitors will see cutting-edge and cultural exhibitions from almost 200 countries. When Dubai made its bid to host the Expo, the city's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum promised Dubai would "astonish the world".

Sources: [thenationalnews.com](https://thenationalnews.com) / [reuters.com](https://reuters.com) / [wikipedia.org](https://wikipedia.org)

### Writing

World Expos are among the greatest events on Earth. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Dubai / Expo / pandemic / opening ceremony / opera / pianist / singer / fireworks / global / aims / challenges / the future / sustainability / mobility / opportunity / ruler

### True / False

- 1) The article says the Dubai Expo opening ceremony lacked extravagance. T / F
- 2) Dubai Expo will last for a year. T / F
- 3) A Saudi Arabian singer sang at the opening ceremony. T / F
- 4) Reuters called the Dubai Expo fireworks lavish. T / F
- 5) The World Expo happens every four years. T / F
- 6) The aim of the Expo is to showcase challenges to humanity. T / F
- 7) The Dubai Expo theme is "Connecting the Future, Creating Minds". T / F
- 8) Over 200 countries will have exhibits at the Dubai Expo. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>delayed</b>      | a. famous           |
| 2. <b>extravagant</b>  | b. state-of-the-art |
| 3. <b>renowned</b>     | c. gorgeous         |
| 4. <b>flamboyant</b>   | d. proposal         |
| 5. <b>lavish</b>       | e. expensive        |
| 6. <b>fundamental</b>  | f. amaze            |
| 7. <b>dedicated</b>    | g. energetic        |
| 8. <b>cutting-edge</b> | h. devoted          |
| 9. <b>bid</b>          | i. postponed        |
| 10. <b>astonish</b>    | j. basic            |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Should Expo take place more often?
- c) What benefits does Expo have for a city?
- d) What are the fundamental challenges faced by humanity?
- e) What opportunities are there for you in the future?
- f) What do you think the future will be like?
- g) How might Expo 'astonish the world'?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Expo's organizers?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| 1. The 2020 Dubai Expo has finally opened  | a. by humanity             |
| 2. An extravagant opening ceremony ushered | b. from the music world    |
| 3. A host of stars                         | c. showcase solutions      |
| 4. the world-                              | d. collaboration           |
| 5. the power of global                     | e. held in the Middle East |
| 6. Its aims are to                         | f. of sustainability       |
| 7. fundamental challenges faced            | g. after being delayed     |
| 8. dedicated to the sub-themes             | h. renowned opera singer   |
| 9. It is the first Expo to be              | i. to host the Expo        |
| 10. When Dubai made its bid                | j. in the global event     |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Dubai?
- What do you know about Expo?
- Would you like to attend the Dubai Expo?
- Have you ever been to an extravagant opening ceremony?
- What do you think of huge fireworks displays?
- Who would you like to see perform at an Expo opening ceremony?
- How good is your country at collaborating?
- What do you think of a sustainable future?

## Spelling

- An enartatvaxg opening ceremony
- the world-roeendwn opera singer
- China's amanboytlf pianist
- the havisl ceremony
- the power of global iocorlalobtna
- a more abiutlesasn future
- Its aims are to showcase ilountoss
- dunfmenaalt challenges
- eedltesc the theme
- Expo will also be edacedidt
- mobility and uirtpopnyot
- cultural oxhbtiiieis

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. i	2. e	3. a	4. g	5. c
6. j	7. h	8. b	9. d	10. f

## Role Play

### Role A – Food

You think food is the thing that will be most improved in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't improve. Also, tell the others which of these will improve the least (and why): employment, education or technology.

### Role B – Employment

You think employment is the thing that will be most improved in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't improve. Also, tell the others which of these will improve the least (and why): food, education or technology.

### Role C – Education

You think education is the thing that will be most improved in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't improve. Also, tell the others which of these will improve the least (and why): employment, food or technology.

### Role D – Technology

You think technology is the thing that will be most improved in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things won't improve. Also, tell the others which of these will improve the least (and why): employment, education or food.

## Speaking – The Future

Rank these with your partner. Put which of these things will be best in the future at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| • Happiness  | • Food      |
| • Mobility   | • Education |
| • Peace      | • Jobs      |
| • Technology | • Weather   |

### Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 F	6 T	7 F	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.