1. Read the letter below

Dear Mum and Dad

Happy New Year! Hope you had a good New Year's Eve. I had the most amazing time here in Dubai, watching the biggest firework display ever – an **extravaganza** lasting six minutes, which set a new world record for a single **coordinated** display. The 500 000 fireworks were set off from 400 firing locations, **synchronised** by 100 computers. It took the **technicians** ten months to plan!

There was a countdown to midnight in fireworks in both roman and arabic numerals. Organisers said they wanted to create a burst of light to imitate a sunrise and dazzle spectators with a United Arab Emirates flag that could also break records for being the largest ever made of fireworks. They certainly did that!

I was down with thousands of watchers standing by the fountains at Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest tower, which was used as a backdrop for the display. Everyone got there early and the anticipation beforehand was **electric**; it wasn't only the children who were excited! The Burj is shaped like a rocket itself, and was the launch pad for thousands of smaller rockets. It was turned into a whole series of famous monuments, like the Eiffel Tower, by patterns of light flashing on it. And that was just a small part of it...

... it was a helter-skelter, with showers of sparks sliding down it. It was an **incandescent** pine tree with thousands of starry branches. It was a castle unleashing arrows of fire. Down below there was an orchard of trees bursting into blossom; there were pulsing globes like dandelion heads sending out seeds; there were tiered birthday cakes with exploding candles. **Iridescent** rings climbed the tower. **Scintillating** fountains leapt up to meet the cascades of light. Bouquets of bright flowers of every hue filled the sky.

Everyone was holding up their phone to capture the images, holding their breath, **mesmerised**. It was too much to take in; there were too many places to look **simultaneously**. The soundtrack of sci-fi film-type music matched the display of dancing light and water, and made it a space-age experience. There was huge applause at the end, cheering and whistling that went on for ages. It was unforgettable, and I really wish you could have seen it too.

Maybe next year! I'm really enjoying the job and the lifestyle, so I'll still be here then!

Love,

Lee

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. **Join** the meanings of each word in bold with a meaning in the context of the letter.

extravaganza	*made to happen at the same time*
coordinated	*spectacle*
synchronised	*at the same time*
technicians	*specialists*
electric	*entranced*
incandescent	*excited*
iridescent	*shimmering*
scintillating	*fiery*
mesmerised	*combined*
simultaneously	*sparkling*

3. Next to each of the same words, **mark** the part of speech they are according to text.

extravaganza	*noun*	*verb*	*adverb*
coordinated	*adjective*	*adverb*	*verb*
synchronised	*adverb*	*verb*	*noun*
technicians	*noun*	*verb*	*adjective*
electric	*verb*	*adverb*	*adjective*
incandescent	*noun*	*adjective*	*verb*
iridescent	*adjective*	*verb*	*noun*
scintillating	*verb*	*adverb*	*adjective*
mesmerised	*adjective*	*verb*	*noun*
simultaneously	*noun*	*adverb*	*verb*

4. Mark the correct answer
   a. What kind of letter is this?
      a) formal b) informal
   b. Where is the writer at the time of writing?
      a) In Dubai b) at home c) at work d) it cannot be said
   c. How long will the writer stay where she is now?
      a) At least one month more b) at least one year more
      c) it doesn't say

LIVEWORKSHEETS