



## Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Where are some famous places for skiing?
2. What is the best weather to ski in?
3. What kinds of things do you usually find at a ski resort?

## Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. assigned; named | d. foreign; unusual; exciting  |
| b. inhabited       | e. went through to learn about |
| c. space           | f. tiny (microscopic) pieces   |

1. \_\_\_ The city is densely populated. More than two million people live there.
2. \_\_\_ During our first night in Dubai, we explored the shopping district.
3. \_\_\_ The small hill is designated as the beginner's slope or bunny slope.
4. \_\_\_ Someday I want to travel to exotic places and see interesting sites.
5. \_\_\_ There is an area where guests can sit and rest in the hotel's lobby.
6. \_\_\_ You can find particles of dust inside snowflakes.

# The Snowy Slopes of Dubai



People who enjoy skiing dream of skiing in exotic places. These days they don't have to limit themselves to just the Rocky Mountains or the Swiss Alps. Now they can ski in Dubai as well! That's right. Dubai, the most populated city in the United Arab Emirates, has a ski resort.

Ski Dubai opened for business in 2005. Other than being the world's third largest indoor ski **facility**, Ski Dubai has a number of things to amaze visitors. First and foremost, this ski facility was built in a place where there are no natural hills and it never snows. While the desert outdoors can reach 45° C in the summer, the **slopes** of Ski Dubai are kept at a cool -2° C all year round.

Like any other ski resort, Ski Dubai has a **chairlift** and ski instructors. It also **boasts** a Swiss style café on the slopes where skiers can rest and warm up. However, that's not all. Along with being able to enjoy the five indoor slopes, including a black diamond slope, visitors are welcome to build snowmen in a designated area. Children can also enjoy snowball fights in the snowball throwing gallery, or they can explore a snow **cavern** filled with amazing things for kids to see and do.

As if all of that were not enough, it is also possible for guests to experience falling snow from time to time. When it is time to make new snow inside the facility, the temperature drops to -8° C. Then snow guns shoot out **chilled** water to make a cloud near the ceiling. Tiny particles of ice are shot into the cloud to form snow crystals. This manmade snow falls from the ceiling on excited guests below. When Raed Al Yousofi, a guest at Ski Dubai, experienced his first snowfall, he said, "It's very strange but wonderful." That is certainly an apt description of Ski Dubai as well.



Reading Time \_\_\_\_\_ minutes \_\_\_\_\_ seconds

322 words

<sup>6</sup> *facility*: a place or building made for a certain use

<sup>8</sup> *slope*: a side of a mountain

<sup>10</sup> *chairlift*: a machine used to take skiers to the top of slopes

<sup>11</sup> *boast*: to be proud of having

<sup>15</sup> *cavern*: a cave

<sup>21</sup> *chill*: to make cool



Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of this reading?
  - a. What Ski Dubai has
  - b. Where the idea of Ski Dubai came from
  - c. Who made Ski Dubai possible
  - d. Why Ski Dubai needed to be built
2. Where was Ski Dubai built?
  - a. In a city
  - b. In a place with hills
  - c. In a resort with a large hotel
  - d. In an area where it frequently snows
3. Which of the following is NOT found at Ski Dubai?
  - a. A black diamond slope
  - b. A place to eat inside the facility
  - c. A place to just play in the snow
  - d. A slope with a ski jump
4. What happens when the facility needs to make new snow?
  - a. A cloud is made above the slopes.
  - b. All the guests are asked to exit.
  - c. Chilled water is put on the slopes.
  - d. Particles of ice are mixed with real snow.
5. Which of the following can be inferred about Raed Al Yousofi?
  - a. He had never seen snow before.
  - b. He is good at winter sports.
  - c. He used to live in a cold country.
  - d. He works at Ski Dubai.

## Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **limit oneself to** [ to think or believe only certain choices or things are possible ]  
I didn't want to seem greedy, so I **limited myself to** just two slices of pizza.
- **first and foremost** [ important to note as first ]  
A new product must, **first and foremost**, meet a need in the market.
- **an apt description** [ a good or appropriate way to talk about ]  
He told me the movie was a waste of time, and that was **an apt description**. It was awful!

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. Critics said the book was a children's fairy tale, but that's not really \_\_\_\_\_ of it.
2. Dr. Bill Turner always \_\_\_\_\_ seeing only twelve patients per day.
3. The new government should, \_\_\_\_\_, do something about the nation's economy.

## Summary

Read the sentences from the reading passage. Paraphrase the sentences to create a summary of the passage.

- a. Dubai, the most populated city in the United Arab Emirates, has a ski resort.
- b. While the desert outdoors can reach 45° C in the summertime, the slopes of Ski Dubai are kept at a cool -2° C all year round.

1. **a + b:** Even though the temperature outdoors can reach 45° C, people living in Dubai can \_\_\_\_\_.

- c. Along with being able to enjoy the five indoor slopes, including a black diamond slope, visitors are welcome to build snowmen in a designated area.
- d. Children can also enjoy snowball fights in the snowball throwing gallery, or they can explore a snow cavern filled with amazing things for kids to see and do.

2. **c + d:** In addition to skiing, people who visit the resort can \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.

- e. As if all of that were not enough, it is also possible for guests to experience falling snow from time to time.
- f. This manmade snow falls from the ceiling on excited guests below.

3. **e + f:** When it is time to make new snow for the slopes, guests at Ski Dubai can \_\_\_\_\_.



## Listening

### Just to Be Safe



Listen to the dialog. Check **True** or **False** for each sentence.

- 1. The man believes Ski Dubai is a safe facility.
- 2. There are stairs made in a special way at Ski Dubai.
- 3. The trees on the slopes were grown in Dubai.

True	False
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Discuss the following questions.

1. What is a winter activity that you enjoy? When was the last time you did it?
2. What is a tourist attraction in your country that brings a lot of visitors from other countries?
3. What kind of indoor entertainment facility is popular in your country?

Grammar

**Prepositions with Two or More Words**

Certain prepositions are made up of two or more words.

*(Other than / Unlike) being the world's third largest indoor ski facility, there are a number of things about Ski Dubai to amaze visitors.*

*(Along with / In spite of) being able to enjoy the five indoor slopes, including a black diamond slope, visitors are welcome to build snowmen in a designated area.*

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

**A Popular Entertainment Facility**

**(1)** What kind of indoor entertainment facility is popular in your country? **(2)** Where is it located? **(3)** Have you ever visited that entertainment facility? **(4)** What did you enjoy about it? OR What have you heard about it?

**Example**

A popular indoor entertainment facility in my country is Glow Bowling. These facilities can be found in many cities. They are regular bowling alleys with special (black) lights. I have visited one Glow Bowling place in my hometown. It was fun to see everyone's shirts and shoes glowing under the special lights. However, other than that, it was just like normal bowling.

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## Vocabulary and Idiom Review

### A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. He lives in the country with few neighbors. It is not a very \_\_\_\_ area.  
a. essential                      b. exotic                      c. populated                      d. amazing
2. I don't think I'm a good match for your friend. There just isn't much we \_\_\_\_.  
a. have in common      b. limit myself to      c. make a living      d. are apt descriptions
3. People are worried about the \_\_\_\_ created by factories near the river.  
a. frustrations                      b. particles                      c. pollution                      d. slopes
4. I'm not sure if the book has over 100 pages. That is just a(n) \_\_\_\_ guess.  
a. approximate                      b. typical                      c. chilled                      d. designated
5. The waitress did not mean to \_\_\_\_ the customer. She was just busy.  
a. boast                      b. conquer                      c. explore                      d. neglect
6. Were your \_\_\_\_ originally from this country?  
a. ancestors                      b. areas                      c. caverns                      d. species
7. The company plans to build a new, larger \_\_\_\_ in another city.  
a. chairlift                      b. description                      c. facility                      d. drug

### B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. How large is the \_\_\_\_ of your hometown?  
a. population                      b. populated                      c. unpopulated
9. Our group will \_\_\_\_ one person to speak in front of the class.  
a. designation                      b. designate                      c. designated
10. The two men \_\_\_\_ the Arctic in the early 1900s.  
a. explorer                      b. exploration                      c. explored