

# GAP FILL

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171027-coding.html>

The United Arab Emirates is (1) \_\_\_\_\_ a new programme to teach people computer coding. One million people will receive free training to learn how to code (2) \_\_\_\_\_ and computer software. The new initiative was (3) \_\_\_\_\_ by the UAE's Prime Minister and (4) \_\_\_\_\_ of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. It is called the One Million Arab Coders initiative. Sheikh Mohammad wants young Arabs in the Middle East to have the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to develop the (6) \_\_\_\_\_ economy in their countries. Sheikh Mohammad said: "Coding will create many job opportunities for young people to (7) \_\_\_\_\_. It will pave the way for them to participate in the global economy (8) \_\_\_\_\_, from home."

*digital*  
*apps*  
*online*  
*ruler*  
*starting*  
*compete*  
*skills*  
*launched*

The new initiative will (9) \_\_\_\_\_ the large number of young people living in the Middle East to get (10) \_\_\_\_\_ coding. Studies show that 50 per cent of the Arab population is under 25 years old, and that 40 per cent of these hope to (11) \_\_\_\_\_ their own business within the next five years. Sheikh Mohammad said: "This project is part of [our] (12) \_\_\_\_\_ to spread hope in the region, create employment opportunities and give our youth the skills (13) \_\_\_\_\_ for them to successfully lead our (14) \_\_\_\_\_ into the future." He added that: "From the world's leading companies to the global economy itself, programming is the future." The (15) \_\_\_\_\_ ten students will receive \$50,000, while the top student will win a \$1 million (16) \_\_\_\_\_.

*own*  
*top*  
*encourage*  
*needed*  
*prize*  
*mission*  
*into*  
*region*

# THE ARTICLE

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171027-coding.html>

The United Arab Emirates is starting a new programme to teach people computer coding. One million people will receive free training to learn how to code apps and computer software. The new initiative was launched by the UAE's Prime Minister and ruler of Dubai Sheikh Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum. It is called the One Million Arab Coders initiative. Sheikh Mohammad wants young Arabs in the Middle East to have the skills to develop the digital economy in their countries. Sheikh Mohammad said: "Coding will create many job opportunities for young people to compete. It will pave the way for them to participate in the global economy online, from home."

The new initiative will encourage the large number of young people living in the Middle East to get into coding. Studies show that 50 per cent of the Arab population is under 25 years old, and that 40 per cent of these hope to own their own business within the next five years. Sheikh Mohammad said: "This project is part of [our] mission to spread hope in the region, create employment opportunities and give our youth the skills needed for them to successfully lead our region into the future." He added that: "From the world's leading companies to the global economy itself, programming is the future." The top ten students will receive \$50,000, while the top student will win a \$1 million prize.

Sources: <http://gulfnnews.com/news/uae/education/uae-offers-to-train-1-million-arabs-in-computer-coding-1.2111848>  
<https://www.thenational.ae/uae/uae-to-train-one-million-young-arab-coders-in-the-language-of-the-future-1.669868>  
<https://stepfeed.com/the-uae-will-train-1-million-arab-youth-to-become-coders-and-data-analysts-0830>

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171027-coding.html>

## 1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. A million people will pay a dollar each for a coding training programme. **T / F**
- b. The new initiative was launched by Dubai's leader. **T / F**
- c. The initiative is not just for people living in the UAE. **T / F**
- d. The coding programme will mean people will be able to work at home. **T / F**
- e. Around 25% of people in the Middle East are under 50 years old. **T / F**
- f. About 40% of young people in the Middle East want their own business. **T / F**
- g. It is hoped the project will lead the Far East in the future. **T / F**
- h. The top student in the coding programme will win \$50,000. **T / F**

## 2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- |                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. <b>receive</b>       | a. started   |
| 2. <b>initiative</b>    | b. chances   |
| 3. <b>launched</b>      | c. persuade  |
| 4. <b>develop</b>       | d. inside    |
| 5. <b>participate</b>   | e. plan      |
| 6. <b>encourage</b>     | f. guide     |
| 7. <b>within</b>        | g. take part |
| 8. <b>opportunities</b> | h. get       |
| 9. <b>lead</b>          | i. award     |
| 10. <b>prize</b>        | j. grow      |

## 3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                                      |                       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. learn how to code                 | a. into the future    |
| 2. ruler                             | b. the global economy |
| 3. the skills to develop the digital | c. coding             |
| 4. create many job                   | d. apps               |
| 5. participate in                    | e. economy            |
| 6. get into                          | f. \$1 million prize  |
| 7. part of our mission               | g. opportunities      |
| 8. give our youth the skills         | h. to spread hope     |
| 9. successfully lead our region      | i. needed             |
| 10. the top student will win a       | j. of Dubai           |

# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <https://breakingnewsenglish.com/1710/171027-coding.html>

- 1) How much will people have to pay for the computer coding?
  - a) \$50,000
  - b) nothing
  - c) whatever they can afford
  - d) \$1
- 2) Which part of the UAE is the sheikh who launched the initiative from?
  - a) Ras al Khaimah
  - b) Abu Dhabi
  - c) Sharjah
  - d) Dubai
- 3) What does the sheikh want people in the Middle East to develop?
  - a) the digital economy
  - b) soft skills
  - c) a sense of community
  - d) a computer
- 4) What will the initiative create?
  - a) competition
  - b) a new operating system
  - c) job opportunities
  - d) homes
- 5) Where could future coders participate in the global economy from?
  - a) Google
  - b) home
  - c) space
  - d) the desert
- 6) How much of the Arab population in the Middle East is under 25?
  - a) half
  - b) a third
  - c) a quarter
  - d) three-quarters
- 7) What do young people hope to own in the next five years?
  - a) stocks and shares
  - b) a search engine
  - c) their own business
  - d) their own home
- 8) What might coders lead in the future?
  - a) their region
  - b) the way
  - c) workshops
  - d) multinational companies
- 9) What did the sheikh say was the future?
  - a) programming
  - b) 2030
  - c) the global economy
  - d) leading
- 10) What will the top student win?
  - a) a top job
  - b) \$50,000
  - c) free computers for life
  - d) \$1 million