

## France to help make Saudi Arabia's first opera house

12th April, 2018



Saudi Arabia will soon have its very first national orchestra and opera. France will help Saudi to set up the musical groups. The two countries signed a series of agreements on

Monday to boost cultural ties, and cooperation through the arts. France's Culture Minister said: "Today, an agreement was signed with the Paris Opera to help Saudi Arabia set up a national orchestra and an opera." The world-famous Paris Opera will help Saudi Arabia produce its own classical music performances and operas. Plans are already under way for the country's first opera house to be built in the kingdom's second largest city, Jeddah. Saudi Arabia will invest \$64 billion in developing its entertainment industry over the next decade.

The agreement is part of a plan created by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, called Vision 2030. He wants to modernize many areas of Saudi life. There were other projects included in the cultural agreements between France and Saudi Arabia. French archaeologists will work on developing Saudi Arabia's Al-Ula region in the northwest of the country. The area is rich in ancient archaeological sites. French experts will help to preserve the area. Another key part of the agreement is the translation of literature. France's Culture Minister stressed, "the importance of translating books in both directions, from Arabic into French and French into Arabic".

Sources: [arabnews.com](http://arabnews.com) / [alarabiya.net](http://alarabiya.net) / [bbc.com](http://bbc.com)

### Writing

Opera is the best form of music and art. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Saudi Arabia / orchestra / agreement / opera / classical music / entertainment / decade / France / vision / modernize / archaeologists / key / literature / translation / books

### True / False

- a) Saudi Arabia already has a classical orchestra but has no opera. T / F
- b) Saudi Arabia signed agreements to boost business ties between them. T / F
- c) Saudi's first opera house will be built in the capital city of Riyadh. T / F
- d) Saudi will spend \$64bn on its entertainment industry in the next 10 years. T / F
- e) The Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia has a plan called Vision 2030. T / F
- f) The Crown Prince wants to make Saudi a more modern country. T / F
- g) French architects will help to preserve ancient Saudi sites. T / F
- h) Books will be translated from Arabic into French. T / F

### Synonym Match

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

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. <b>set up</b>      | a. ten years     |
| 2. <b>series</b>      | b. written works |
| 3. <b>boost</b>       | c. set           |
| 4. <b>ties</b>        | d. made          |
| 5. <b>decade</b>      | e. help          |
| 6. <b>created</b>     | f. very old      |
| 7. <b>modernize</b>   | g. start         |
| 8. <b>ancient</b>     | h. ways          |
| 9. <b>literature</b>  | i. update        |
| 10. <b>directions</b> | j. links         |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of opera?
- b) Why do so many people prefer pop music to classical music?
- c) Why didn't Saudi Arabia have an opera house before?
- d) What arts are important in your country?
- e) What do you know about the culture of Saudi Arabia?
- f) Why is Saudi investing so much money in entertainment?
- g) Which is better, classical music or opera?
- h) What kind of performance art do you like best?

# BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

## Phrase Match

- signed a series
- Plans are already under
- the kingdom's second largest
- invest
- over the next
- modernize many areas
- cultural
- the northwest
- rich in ancient archaeological
- translating books in both
- of Saudi life
- directions
- decade
- of the country
- way
- sites
- of agreements
- \$64 billion
- agreements
- city

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- How important is classical music?
- Is classical music better than rock music?
- How important are the arts?
- What would you do to modernize your country?
- What could you do on a holiday in Saudi Arabia?
- What is the benefit of translating French and Arabic books?
- What questions would you like to ask the culture ministers?

## Spelling

- its very first national srtcoraeh and opera
- signed a series of gesatreemn
- tnoipoicear through the arts
- classical music enfmprraocse
- entertainment ytnsdiru
- over the next eceadd
- He wants to odezemrni many areas
- French asoslhetrcigoa
- developing Saudi Arabia's Al-Ula nrioeg
- French etepsxr
- help to preeervs the area
- the translation of uitrraelte

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Opera

You think opera is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hip-hop, jazz or folk.

### Role B – Hip-Hop

You think hip-hop is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): opera, jazz or folk.

### Role C – Jazz

You think jazz is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hip-hop, opera or folk.

### Role D – Folk

You think folk is the best kind of music. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their kinds. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): hip-hop, jazz or opera.

## Speaking – Music

Rank these with your partner. Put the best music at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- hip-hop
- electro
- country
- pop
- opera
- folk
- rock
- jazz

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	F	d	T	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.