

# Biography of Elon Musk

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Elon Musk was born in South Africa in 1971. As a child, he was interested in computers and taught himself how to code. He moved to the United States to study and later started several companies. Musk's family was wealthy. His father owned part of an emerald mine in Zambia, where Black workers, including enslaved laborers, worked in harsh conditions. This family wealth gave Musk advantages that helped him start his businesses.

One of his first successful companies was PayPal, which helped people send money online. After selling PayPal, Musk started Tesla, a company that makes electric cars, and SpaceX, a company that builds rockets.



Musk is known for his big ideas, but he has also faced many problems. Some of his companies have struggled, and he has made promises that he couldn't keep. He often makes bold statements on social media, which has led to criticism. Some people admire his ambition, while others think he is reckless and hard to work with.

In 2022, Musk bought Twitter and changed its name to X. He allowed banned accounts back on the platform. Critics say he has spread misinformation and made the site worse by allowing more hateful content. Musk has also been involved in political controversies. He has shared conspiracy theories, supported right-wing politicians, and made offensive comments online. Some people see him as a free speech supporter, while others think he is spreading harmful ideas.

Some see him as a genius, while others believe he cares more about fame and power than helping people. He is currently the richest person in the world.

## Comprehension Questions:

1. Which of these statements is false?

- a) Elon Musk was born in Africa.
- b) Musk started only one company during his career.
- c) He bought Twitter in 2022.
- d) His family background helped him launch his businesses.

2. Which of these was a factor in Musk's success?

- a) His family was very wealthy.
- b) He learned to code at a young age.
- c) PayPal was a very successful company.
- d) All of the above are true.

3. What does the article say about Musk's bold social media statements?

- a) They always improve his companies' reputation.
- b) They cause both admiration and criticism.
- c) They have no influence on public opinion.
- d) They make everyone laugh.

4. How did Musk's family wealth help him?
  - a) It had no impact on his ability to start companies.
  - b) It forced him to take fewer risks in business.
  - c) It solved all his problems without any challenges.
  - d) It gave him advantages that helped him launch his businesses.
  
5. What lesson can we learn from Musk's experience with promises he could not keep?
  - a) Making bold promises always guarantees success.
  - b) Keeping commitments is important to maintain trust.
  - c) Bold statements have no consequences.
  - d) Promising less is not an option in business.
  
6. How have Musk's actions contributed to discussions about free speech?
  - a) They have led to conversations about balancing free speech with the spread of harmful ideas.
  - b) They prove that free speech is always beneficial.
  - c) They show that public figures should never use social media.
  - d) They have eliminated controversy from public debate.
  
7. What can we conclude about the public's view of Musk?
  - a) Everyone admires him without any criticism.
  - b) He is seen as a genius by all who follow him.
  - c) Opinions are mixed; some admire his ambition while others find him reckless.
  - d) No one cares about his actions in business or politics.
  
8. The conditions were harsh for the workers in the emerald mine. What does "harsh" mean?
 

a) quiet and dark	b) calm and pleasant
c) rough and difficult	d) easy and rewarding
  
9. Critics say Musk has spread misinformation. What does "misinformation" mean?
 

a) Very detailed and hard-to-understand information.	b) Accurate and true information.
c) Secret information that is not shared.	d) False or wrong information.
  
10. What challenge might a leader face when managing several innovative companies like Musk?
  - a) Having too much free time.
  - b) Handling multiple responsibilities can lead to conflicts and difficulties.
  - c) Making decisions becomes very simple.
  - d) Avoiding all mistakes is guaranteed.

**Speaking and Writing Activities:**

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group.
- Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.

1. Do you think success depends more on talent, hard work, or luck? Why?
2. If you had Elon Musk's money, what would you do with it?
3. If you could invent a new technology for the future, what would it be? How would it change the world?