

TIME names Elon Musk 2021 Person of the Year

16th December, 2021



Every December, TIME magazine announces its Person of the Year. This year, that award goes to the groundbreaking entrepreneur Elon Musk. TIME's editor-in-chief Edward Felsenthal explained why. He wrote: "Person of the Year is a

marker of influence. Few individuals have had more influence than Musk on life on Earth, and potentially, life off Earth too." He added: "In 2021, Musk emerged not just as the world's richest person, but also as perhaps the richest example of a massive shift in our society." Mr Musk is worth more than \$255 billion. He is the richest person in history. He is also helping to save our world and our future. He is leading efforts to explore space and get to Mars.

The year 2021 was an amazing one for Elon Musk. He went into space* in his own rocket. It was made by his company SpaceX. This is a pioneer in space tourism. It might enable us to travel to Mars. Mr Musk is also well known for his car company Tesla. This controls two-thirds of the multi-billion-dollar electric car market. It is valued at around \$1 trillion. Musk is also an engineer, inventor and a trailblazer in many other cutting-edge industries. He first made his name by co-founding the e-payments company PayPal. Today, he is a leading player in robotics, solar technology, cryptocurrency, artificial intelligence and super-speed public transport. TIME called him a genius and a visionary.

* ERROR: Elon Musk has never been into space.

Sources: [time.com](https://www.time.com) / [cnn.com](https://www.cnn.com) / [npr.org](https://www.npr.org)

Writing

It is important to have a person of the year. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

time / magazine / person / award / 2021 / influence / life on Earth / society / space / rocket / pioneer / travel / Mars / electric car / engineer / inventor / robotics / genius

True / False

- 1) TIME announces its Person of the Year every November. T / F
- 2) The article says no one has influenced society more than Elon Musk. T / F
- 3) Elon Musk is worth over \$250 billion. T / F
- 4) Elon Musk is the richest person in history. T / F
- 5) Elon Musk went into space in one of his own rockets. T / F
- 6) The car company Tesla controls three-quarters of the electric car market. T / F
- 7) Elon Musk helped to create the e-payments company PayPal. T / F
- 8) TIME magazine said Elon Musk was a genius. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. award | a. worth |
| 2. entrepreneur | b. power |
| 3. influence | c. attempts |
| 4. shift | d. participant |
| 5. efforts | e. business person |
| 6. amazing | f. innovator |
| 7. pioneer | g. mastermind |
| 8. valued | h. prize |
| 9. player | i. unbelievable |
| 10. genius | j. change |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What would you like to know about Elon Musk?
- c) Who is your person of the century?
- d) What do you think of the car company Tesla?
- e) What do you think of PayPal?
- f) What three adjectives best describe Elon Musk?
- g) How much of a genius and visionary is Mr Musk?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Elon Musk?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Few individuals have had more | a. electric car market |
| 2. life | b. more than \$255 billion |
| 3. Mr Musk is worth | c. intelligence |
| 4. He is also helping to save | d. on Earth |
| 5. He is leading efforts | e. player in robotics |
| 6. The year 2021 was an amazing | f. our world |
| 7. two-thirds of the multi-billion-dollar | g. influence than Musk |
| 8. a trailblazer in many other cutting- | h. one for Elon Musk |
| 9. he is a leading | i. to explore space |
| 10. artificial | j. edge industries |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Elon Musk?
- Who is your person of the year?
- How has Elon Musk changed people's lives?
- What would it be like to be the world's richest person?
- What else can Mr Musk do to help life on Earth?
- How can we become as successful as Elon Musk?
- Should humans go to Mars?
- What advice do you have for Elon Musk?

Spelling

- TIME magazine nanuocnes its Person of the Year
- more fulneicne than Musk
- and epinttaloly, life off Earth
- a assmvie shift in our society
- Mr Musk is hrotw more than \$255 billion
- He is leading efforts to explore space
- a inopeer in space tourism
- an engineer, nventior and a trailblazer
- cutting-edge ndsirtuies
- a leading player in brtooics
- citiirafal intelligence
- TIME called him a genius and a ivoryinsa

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Space Travel

You think space travel is the most important industry for the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their industries. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): electric cars, Artificial Intelligence or solar technology.

Role B – Electric Cars

You think electric cars is the most important industry for the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their industries. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): space travel, Artificial Intelligence or solar technology.

Role C – Artificial Intelligence

You think Artificial Intelligence is the most important industry for the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their industries. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): electric cars, space travel or solar technology.

Role D – Solar Technology

You think solar technology is the most important industry for the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their industries. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): electric cars, Artificial Intelligence or space travel.

Speaking – Industries

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important industries at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| • Space travel | • Robotics |
| • Electric cars | • Public transport |
| • Crypto-currency | • Tunnel building |
| • Solar technology | • Artificial Intelligence |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 T	5 T	6 F	7 T	8 T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.