

Work over 80 hours a week to change the world

29th November, 2018



One of the world's most successful business leaders, Elon Musk, has said that people need to work from around 80 to over 100 hours per week to "change the world". Mr Musk knows what he is talking about because he has his finger in many pies. He is the founder, CEO and

lead designer of SpaceX; the co-founder and CEO of the car company Tesla; and the co-founder of PayPal. He works very hard on many projects that have changed and could change our lives. He said he is a workaholic but he loves what he does. He talked about working hard in an interview with the technology news website Recode. He said: "There are way easier places to work, but nobody ever changed the world on 40 hours a week."

It is not just Mr Musk who works hard. Workers at his companies also put in very long hours. Musk said "everyone" at Tesla has worked 100 hours per week at times this year. He said this was necessary to make sure the Tesla Model 3 car could survive. He said: "There wasn't some other way to do this." Musk acknowledged that some Tesla employees were unhappy with working so hard. He said some workers called the hours "excessive," while others said they prefer to work 70 or more hours per week. Musk said the "pain level" of working hard increases above 80 hours a week, but he didn't say what the pain was. The average CEO of a multi-billion-dollar company works around 70 hours a week.

Sources: businessinsider.com / cnbc.com / thetechportal.com

Writing

There should be a limit of working 35 hours a week for everyone. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

successful / business / leaders / finger / pies / CEO / designer / car company / news / workers / long hours / survive / working hard / pain level / average / multi-billion

True / False

- a) The article called Elon Musk a successful business leader. T / F
- b) The article says Mr Musk has his finger in many pies. T / F
- c) Mr Musk helped to start the company PayPal. T / F
- d) Mr Musk said his companies are the easiest companies to work for. T / F
- e) Workers at Musk's companies do not work more than 80 hours a week. T / F
- f) Mr Musk said all workers at his companies were happy. T / F
- g) Some of Mr Musk's workers prefer to work over 70 hours a week. T / F
- h) The average CEO of multi-billion-dollar companies work 90 hours a week. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. successful | a. only |
| 2. around | b. creator |
| 3. lead | c. typical |
| 4. founder | d. needed |
| 5. interview | e. approximately |
| 6. just | f. too much |
| 7. necessary | g. discussion |
| 8. acknowledged | h. doing well |
| 9. excessive | i. accepted |
| 10. average | j. head |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What kind of people become successful business leaders?
- b) What do you know about Elon Musk?
- c) How many hours a week would you like to work?
- d) What do you think of working 100 hours a week?
- e) Would you like to change the world?
- f) What business people have changed the world?
- g) What kind of company would you like to be CEO of?
- h) Do you think you would be a good CEO?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. the world's most successful | a. put in very long hours |
| 2. he has his finger | b. easier places to work |
| 3. the co-founder and CEO | c. he loves what he does |
| 4. he is a workaholic but | d. way to do this |
| 5. There are way | e. billion-dollar company |
| 6. Workers at his companies also | f. in many pies |
| 7. worked 100 hours per week | g. "excessive" |
| 8. There wasn't some other | h. business leaders |
| 9. He said some workers called the hours | i. at times this year |
| 10. The average CEO of a multi- | j. of the car company Tesla |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Should there be a limit on the number of hours worked?
- Could you work for a company that asks you to work 100 hours?
- What is your perfect job?
- Are you a hard worker?
- What "pain" would you get from working so hard?
- Should CEOs get huge salaries?
- What questions would you like to ask Elon Musk?

Spelling

- lucfusssec business leaders
- lead sdgiener of SpaceX
- the nr-oedfocu and CEO
- He works very hard on many jotecspr
- he is a wclaikrooh
- in an erteiniwv
- He said this was nryecseas
- make sure the Tesla Model 3 car could ivvesru
- Tesla epeomyels
- workers called the hours exevsiesc
- they rpreef to work
- The grvaaee CEO

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Space

You think space is the most exciting business to be in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their businesses. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): energy, fashion or robotics.

Role B – Energy

You think energy is the most exciting business to be in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their businesses. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): space, fashion or robotics.

Role C – Fashion

You think fashion is the most exciting business to be in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their businesses. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): energy, space or robotics.

Role D – Robotics

You think robotics is the most exciting business to be in. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their businesses. Also, tell the others which is the least exciting of these (and why): energy, fashion or space.

Speaking – Business

Rank these with your partner. Put the most exciting businesses to work in at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| • energy | • space |
| • fashion | • cars |
| • education | • IT |
| • robotics | • sport |

Answers – True False

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