

Elon Musk becomes world's first trillionaire

15th June 2026



Elon Musk has become the world's first ever trillionaire following the initial public offering (IPO) of his rocket company SpaceX. The IPO on Wall Street added nearly \$870 billion to Mr Musk's wealth. He has amassed almost \$290 billion from Tesla. He

also has eye-watering equity in X, Neuralink, and the Boring Company. Musk is now worth more than the world's next four richest individuals combined. The bulk of Musk's unfathomable wealth is tied up in stock holdings across these business ventures, rather than in cash. SpaceX's IPO was the largest in history, raising \$75 billion. It surpassed the previous record of \$29.4 billion set by the oil company Aramco in 2019.

Elon Musk is a super-entrepreneur. He made his initial fortune by helping to create PayPal. That netted him about \$176 million, which he used to start SpaceX in 2002, and invest in Tesla. SpaceX pioneered the reuse of rocket boosters and now dominates the space travel industry. It accounted for more than half of all rocket launches last year. The company also has 10,000 Starlink satellites in orbit. Musk's aspiration is to "make life multiplanetary". He wants anyone to be able to travel to space. At the IPO, he said: "Whoever you are watching this, SpaceX wants to be able to take you to the Moon, take you to Mars, and ultimately beyond." He added: "Not just a few astronauts, I mean literally you."

Sources: apnews.com / yahoo.com / fortune.com

Writing

All schoolchildren should have lessons on how to be an entrepreneur. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

trillionaire / IPO / rocket company / wealth / equity / business ventures / cash / oil / entrepreneur / fortune / invest / space travel / orbit / aspiration / the Moon / Mars

True / False

- 1) An initial private offering made Elon Musk a trillionaire. T / F
- 2) The IPO for SpaceX took place on the London Stock Exchange. T / F
- 3) Mr Musk is wealthier than the next four richest people combined. T / F
- 4) The previous record for an IPO was set in 2019. T / F
- 5) Musk used money he got from PayPal to start SpaceX. T / F
- 6) SpaceX launched a quarter of all rockets launched last year. T / F
- 7) There are 10,000 Starlink satellites orbiting the Earth. T / F
- 8) Musk wants to send just a few astronauts into space. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. initial | a. constituted |
| 2. amassed | b. major part |
| 3. worth | c. earned |
| 4. bulk | d. opening |
| 5. set | e. exactly |
| 6. netted | f. piled up |
| 7. invest | g. hope |
| 8. accounted for | h. established |
| 9. aspiration | i. put money into |
| 10. literally | j. valued at |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Would you be a good entrepreneur?
- c) Would you like to go into space?
- d) Why do so many super-rich people build space rockets?
- e) What do you think of making our lives 'multiplanetary'?
- f) What will space travel be like in 100 years from now?
- g) What will tourists to Mars do there?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Elon Musk?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. He has amassed | a. watering equity in X |
| 2. He also has eye- | b. of rocket boosters |
| 3. Musk's unfathomable wealth is | c. record of \$29.4 billion |
| 4. SpaceX's IPO was | d. multiplanetary |
| 5. It surpassed the previous | e. almost \$290 billion |
| 6. He made his initial fortune by | f. rocket launches |
| 7. SpaceX pioneered the reuse | g. the largest in history |
| 8. It accounted for more than half of all | h. helping to create PayPal |
| 9. Musk's aspiration is to make life | i. beyond |
| 10. take you to Mars, and ultimately | j. tied up in stock holdings |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about Elon Musk?
- What do you think of someone being a trillionaire?
- What do you know about SpaceX?
- What do you know about Tesla?
- What business would you like to start?
- What would you do with \$1,000,000,000,000?
- What will you do to become wealthier?
- What advice do you have for Elon Musk?

Spelling

- following the iaitnl public offering (IPO)
- He has msaedsa almost \$290 billion
- He also has eye-watering uiyeqt in X
- the world's next four richest iunddialisv
- Musk's mefnoluatabh wealth
- It sedspсарu the previous record
- Elon Musk is a super-nnreereptreu
- 10,000 Starlink sesaetllit
- Musk's ritpnsoaia
- make life eruaniaytmllpt
- take you to Mars, and aeluytlimt beyond
- just a few uosnatrtas

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	How did SpaceX raise money on Wall Street?
2.	From where did Elon Musk get \$290 billion?
3.	What is most of Mr Musk's wealth tied up in?
4.	How much money did SpaceX raise?
5.	When was the previous record for an IPO set?
6.	What did Musk help to create that helped him set up SpaceX?
7.	What did SpaceX pioneer the use of?
8.	How many Starlink satellites are there in orbit?
9.	What does Musk want to make life?
10.	Where does Musk want to go besides the Moon?

Speaking – Space

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

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| • The Sun | • The Moon |
| • Mars | • Comets |
| • Black holes | • Saturn |
| • Shooting stars | • Space dust |

Answers – True False

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