

Elon Musk

Elon Reeve Musk (/ˈiːlɒn/ ⓘ) *EE-lon*; born June 28, 1971) is a businessman and former public official who is the CEO and largest shareholder of Tesla and SpaceX. Musk has been the wealthiest person in the world since 2025, and briefly became the only trillionaire (in terms of US dollars) in June 2026; as of August 14, 2026, *Forbes* estimates his net worth to be US\$864 billion.

Born into the wealthy Musk family in Pretoria, South Africa, Musk emigrated in 1989 to Canada; he has Canadian citizenship since his mother was born there. He received bachelor's degrees in 1997 from the University of Pennsylvania before moving to California to pursue business ventures. In 1995, Musk co-founded Zip2, a web software company. Following its sale in 1999, he co-founded X.com, an e-commerce payment system that merged with Confinity in March 2000 to form PayPal, which was acquired by eBay in 2002. Musk also became an American citizen in 2002.

In 2002, Musk founded and became CEO and chief engineer of SpaceX, a space technology company; the company has since led innovations in reusable rockets and commercial spaceflight. Musk joined Tesla as an early investor in 2004 and became its CEO and product architect in 2008; it has since become a leader in electric vehicles. In 2015, Musk co-founded OpenAI to advance artificial intelligence (AI) research, but later left; his growing discontent with the organization's direction and leadership in the AI boom in the 2020s led him to establish xAI, which became a subsidiary of SpaceX in 2026. In 2022, he acquired Twitter, a social networking service, and made significant changes, including rebranding it as X in 2023. His other businesses include Neuralink, a neurotechnology company that he co-founded in 2016, and the Boring Company, a

Elon Musk

FRS



Musk in 2025

**Senior Advisor to the President for
Government Efficiency**

In office

January 20, 2025 – May 30, 2025

Serving with Massad Boulos

President Donald Trump

Personal details

Born Elon Reeve Musk
June 28, 1971
Pretoria, South Africa

Citizenship South Africa (since 1971)
Canada (since 1971)
United States (since 2002)

Party Independent^[a]

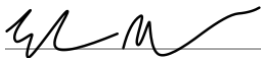
Spouses Justine Wilson
(m. 2000; div. 2008)
Talulah Riley

tunneling company that he founded in 2017. In November 2025, Tesla approved a pay package worth \$1 trillion for Musk, which he is to receive over 10 years if certain milestones are met, such as achieving a market capitalization of \$8.5 trillion. Musk became the first US-dollar trillionaire upon the initial public offering of SpaceX in June 2026, though a SpaceX stock collapse brought him under the threshold by the next month.

Musk was the largest donor in the 2024 U.S. presidential election, where he supported Donald Trump. After Trump was inaugurated in January 2025, Musk was Senior Advisor to the President and the *de facto* head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE). Musk left the Trump administration in May 2025 and returned to managing his companies; shortly thereafter he had a public feud with Trump.

Musk is a supporter of global far-right politics, figures, and political parties. His political activities, statements and views have made him a polarizing figure. He has been criticized for making unscientific and misleading statements, including spreading COVID-19 misinformation, promoting conspiracy theories, and affirming antisemitic, white nationalist, racist, and transphobic comments. His acquisition of Twitter was controversial because, following his pledge to decrease ensorship, there was an increase in hate speech and misinformation on the service.

His role in the second Trump administration attracted public backlash, particularly in response to DOGE and its cuts to the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

	(m. 2010; div. 2012) (m. 2013; div. 2016)
Children	14, ^[b] including <u>Vivian Wilson</u>
Parents	<u>Errol Musk</u> (father) <u>Maye Musk</u> (mother)
Relatives	<u>Musk family</u>
Education	<u>University of Pennsylvania</u> (BA, BS)
Occupation	CEO and product architect of <u>Tesla</u> Founder, CEO, and chief engineer of <u>SpaceX</u> Founder and CEO of <u>xAI</u> Founder and CTO of <u>X Corp.</u> Co-founder of <u>Neuralink</u> , <u>The Boring Company</u> , <u>OpenAI</u> , <u>Zip2</u> , <u>X.com</u> and <u>PayPal</u> President of the <u>Musk Foundation</u>
Awards	<u>Full list</u>
Signature	
Musk's voice  Musk on his main goals for SpaceX and the future of human civilization Recorded January 22, 2026	

Early life and education

Elon Reeve Musk was born on June 28, 1971, in Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital.^{[3][4]} He is of British and Pennsylvania Dutch ancestry.^{[5][6]} His mother, Maye (née Haldeman), is a model and dietitian born in Saskatchewan, Canada, and raised in South Africa.^{[7][8][9]} Musk therefore holds both South African and Canadian citizenship from birth.^[10] His father, Errol Musk, is a South African electromechanical engineer, pilot, sailor, consultant, emerald dealer, and property developer, who partly owned a rental lodge at Timbavati Private Nature Reserve.^{[11][12][13][14]}

His maternal grandfather, Joshua N. Haldeman, who died in a plane crash when Musk was a toddler, was an American-born Canadian chiropractor, aviator and political activist in the Technocracy movement^{[15][16]} who moved to South Africa in 1950.^[17] Haldeman's anti-government, anti-democratic and conspiracist views, which included the promotion of far-right antisemitic conspiracy theories,^{[18][19]} "fanatical" support of apartheid,^[19] and according to Errol, support of Nazism,^[17] have been suggested as an influence on Musk.^{[20][21][22][23]} During his childhood, Musk was told stories by his grandmother of Haldeman's travels and exploits, and he has suggested that all of Haldeman's descendants have his "desire for adventure, exploration – doing crazy things".^[24]

Musk has a younger brother, Kimbal, a younger sister, Tosca, and four paternal half-siblings.^{[25][26][9][27]} He was baptized as a child in the Anglican Church of Southern Africa.^{[28][29]} The Musk family was wealthy during his youth.^[14] Despite both Musk and Errol previously stating that Errol was a part owner of a Zambian emerald mine,^[14] in 2023, Errol recounted that the deal he made was to receive "a portion of the emeralds produced at three small mines".^{[30][31]} Errol was elected to the Pretoria City Council as a representative of the anti-apartheid Progressive Party and has said that his children shared their father's dislike of apartheid.^[3]

After his parents divorced in 1979, Musk, aged around 9, chose to live with his father because he had an Encyclopædia Britannica set and a computer.^{[32][5][11]} He later regretted his decision and became estranged from his father.^[33] Musk has recounted trips to a wilderness school that he described as a "paramilitary Lord of the Flies" where "bullying was a virtue" and children were encouraged to fight over rations.^[34] In one incident, after an altercation with a fellow pupil, Musk was thrown down concrete steps and beaten severely, leading to him being hospitalized for his injuries.^[35] He described his father berating him after he was discharged from the hospital.^[35] Errol denied berating Musk and claimed, "The [other] boy had just lost his father to suicide, and Musk had called him stupid. He had a tendency to call people stupid. How could I possibly blame that child?"^[36]

Musk was an enthusiastic reader of books, and had attributed his success in part to having read The Lord of the Rings, the Foundation series, and The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy.^{[13][37]} At age ten, he developed an interest in computing and video games, teaching himself how to program from the VIC-20 user manual.^[38] At age twelve, in 1983, Musk sold his BASIC-based game Blastar to PC and Office Technology magazine for approximately \$500 (equivalent to \$1,600 in 2025).^{[39][40]}

Education

Musk attended Waterkloof House Preparatory School, Bryanston High School, and then Pretoria Boys High School, where he graduated.^[41] He was a decent but unexceptional student, earning a 61/100 in Afrikaans and a B on his senior math certification.^[42] He applied for a Canadian passport through his Canadian-born mother to avoid South Africa's mandatory military service,^{[43][44]} which would have forced him to participate in the apartheid regime's mandatory