

Students' Choice

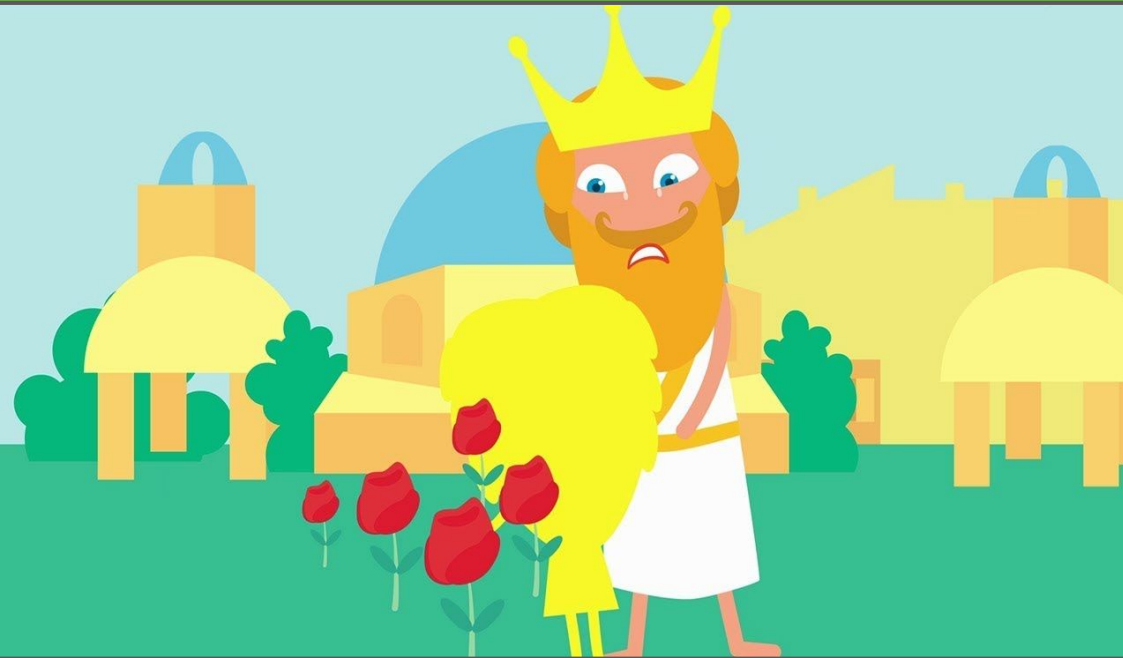
Attaway
AE
English

Howard & Leo



Elon Musk

King Midas & the Golden Touch



What I heard

Vocabulary

A E I O U
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1. *net worth (n.)*
2. *controversial (adj.)*
3. *loan (n.)*
4. *twins (n.)*
5. *triplets (n.)*
6. *affordable (adj.)*
7. *perform (v.)*
8. *free speech (n.)*
9. *access (n.)*
10. *efficient (adj.)*

- a. I borrowed 10k; I took a _____.
- b. John and Sue are _____; they were born at the same time.
- c. My _____ is 120 million usd; I'm rich!
- d. I would buy a Tesla, but it isn't _____ for me now. But I am saving money and will have enough soon.
- e. When I put in my password, it gives me _____ to the website.
- f. _____ is important in the US; say what you want to say.
- g. I am an _____ housekeeper; my house is always clean.
- h. Can you believe they had _____? Three children at the same time must be crazy.
- i. My stocks _____ well this year; I made a lot of money.
- j. The movie is _____; it is about drugs and sex and many questionable things.

King Elon?

A E I O U
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In the story of King Midas, he was given a magic gift: he could turn anything to gold with a touch. The 21st century Midas may well be Elon Musk, currently the wealthiest person in the world with a *net worth* of 420 billion usd? Does he have a magic gift? Let's take a close look at the man who is a *controversial* as he is successful.

Q: What would you do with unlimited wealth? How would your life change?



Early Money Maker

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Elon Reeve Musk was born into a wealthy South African family in 1971. He learned to make money early and it seemed to be a very natural ability. When he was just 12 years old, he made and sold his first video game for \$500. While in college at the University of Pennsylvania, he gave big parties that guests had to buy tickets for. After college he borrowed \$28K from his father to start a company with his brother and a friend (**Zip2**). A few years later, Musk sold **Zip2** to **Compaq** for \$307 million usd. Elon got \$22m. So, from a \$28K *loan*, Elon Musk made \$22m. Not bad, right? Well that's what King Midas does. Everything he touches turns to gold.

Zip2 was an online business directory

Elon Musk
Zip2



Online Banking

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Musk then invested \$12m to begin **X.com**, one of the first online banks. **X.com** changed its name to **PayPal**. When **EBay** bought **PayPal** in 2003, Musk received \$175.8m. So, from an investment of \$12m, Elon “Midas” Musk received \$175.8m. Again, not bad at all. Musk seemed to have a gift of seeing what would be popular in the future and investing in it.

Q: The ability to see the future is important for inventors. Do you have this gift? What do you think will be popular in the next few years?



Life Drama

Yes, Elon had a gift for making money. But his personal life hasn't been as simple. Musk has at least 10 children (maybe more). He and his first wife had *twins* and then *triplets*, then divorced in 2008. His oldest daughter changed her last name and wants nothing to do with him. He married and divorced the same British woman twice. In 2018, his girlfriend, Grimes, gave birth to their first son. They had another child after they broke up. And during his relationship with her, he fathered *twins* with an officer of one of his companies.

Q: Is there a connection with having a lot of money and being irresponsible? What? Why?

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Tesla

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Musk is well known for his involvement with ***Tesla***, makers of electric cars. Tesla was founded in 2003 by 2 US engineers. They wanted to make an electric car that *performed* as well as a gas-powered car. In 2005, Musk invested \$6.5m and became the major *stockholder* and a product designer.



Twitter

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Twitter, currently called “X,” was introduced to the public in July 2006. It grew quickly and had 200 million regular monthly users by 2012. In 2022, Musk purchased **Twitter** for 44 billion usd. He said that his goal in his buying **Twitter** was to encourage *free speech*. But, many people use Twitter to spread hate speech and misinformation. In the United States, freedom of speech is an important privilege.

Q: What do you think about *free speech*. Should people be allowed to say anything they like whenever they like?



Space X

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In 2006, Musk founded SpaceX with the goal of building *affordable* rockets. In 2020, SpaceX became the first private company to put astronauts in orbit. They are currently working toward the goal of reusable rockets and less expensive space travel.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mfQjG4t4M08&t=6s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MaJmUUtr2SI>

Musk believes we must become *interplanetary* in order to survive. What do you think?



Team Trump?

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When Donald Trump was elected to his second term as president in January 2025, Musk was appointed as a “special governmental employee” to help clean up the government. He is in charge of DOGE, the *Department of Governmental Efficiency*. His job is to make sure that government officials do their job *efficiently*. So far, many budgets have been cut and many governmental employees have lost their jobs.

Q: Do you think the government is efficient?
Why or why not. Tell of your experience



Vocabulary Review

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