
Elon Musk Biography Summary PDF Cheatsheet —

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? 1. Develop Unstoppable Vision: During a tough childhood, science fiction inspired Musk's futuristic goals

Elon Musk is who he is because of an extreme tolerance for risk, which may have come from childhood adversity—unhappiness at home, bullying in school, and danger growing up in South Africa. He also has a great imagination to envision future technologies, which probably came from a deep interest in science fiction and comic books.

? 2. Choose to Be Extraordinary: Throughout his life, Musk was endlessly reading and learning

From a young age, Musk was always reading, until he ran out of books at the local libraries. He becomes incredibly interested in whatever captures his attention—from computer programming to rocket engineering. He believes we can all choose to be extraordinary by not being afraid to learn and experiment.

? 3. Outwork Everyone: In his startups Zip2 and PayPal, Musk put in crazy hours and total commitment

To succeed, Musk often recommends working 80-100 hours per week. That's how he succeeded in his first startups—with extreme execution. At Zip2, an online business directory, he often slept in the office. At PayPal, he would often work late into the night, eventually selling the company and earning \$250 million.

? 4. Don't Tolerate Excuses: At SpaceX, Musk's management style is inspiring, but highly demanding

Musk moved to LA and created SpaceX in 2002, a startup that would launch rockets more cheaply than anyone else. His grand vision of colonizing Mars helped attract engineers that were talented and dedicated. They worked for months on a tiny island but suffered two failed rocket launches in 2006 and 2007.

? 5. Forget the Odds: Believing SpaceX was important helped Musk survive extreme uncertainty and stress

In 2008, SpaceX was on the edge of collapse, Musk was getting divorced and under extreme stress. But he remained focused and working 7 days a week, despite the high chance of failure. In 2008, SpaceX succeeded in launching a rocket and secured their future by winning a huge contract with NASA.

? 6. Find Your Opening: The electric car market looked hopeless, but Tesla succeeded with the right strategy

In the early 2000's, most big automakers believed electric cars were impractical. However, Tesla's founders saw opportunity because of a growing group of wealthy 'green' consumers and better

lithium ion batteries. Their 2008 Roadster was really just the first part of their strategy, so they could learn how to build more mainstream cars like the Model S and later Model 3.

This is just a sample!

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