



BILLIONAIRE PLANS TRIP TO MOON



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
144E-KE9G-E4N



1

Warm up

In pairs, answer these questions:

1. What do you think is the best way to make a billion dollars?
2. If you were a billionaire, what would you want to do with your money?
3. Is having a lot of money seen as a positive thing in your culture, or not? Why?

2

Focus on vocabulary

Part A: Match the following definitions to the words.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. <u>entrepreneur</u> (n) | a. a path followed through the air by something which has been hit, fired or thrown |
| 2. <u>civilian</u> (n) | b. a person who is not in the Police, Army, Navy or Air Force |
| 3. <u>criteria</u> (pl. n.) | c. a person who makes money by starting a new kind of business |
| 4. <u>trajectory</u> (n) | d. a standard which is needed for something to be allowed to happen |
| 5. <u>witness</u> (v) | e. give an opinion about something without knowing all of the details or facts |
| 6. <u>speculate</u> (v) | f. see something important happen |



Part B: Now put the words from Part A into the correct gap in the following sentences.

1. I really want to do that University degree, but I'm not sure if I meet the _____ .
2. Being an _____ can be exciting, but there's a lot of risk involved.
3. We've all seen in films like Deep Impact what can happen when Earth enters into an asteroid's _____ .
4. The military attack caused a large number of _____ casualties.
5. Police say that, until more facts are known, they can only _____ about the cause of death.
6. I don't know why the police are talking to him. Did he _____ the murder? Or is he a suspect?

Now, discuss these questions:

1. What is the most amazing event that you have ever **witnessed**?
2. Would you like to be an **entrepreneur**? Why/Why not?
3. What **criteria** does a good friend of yours have to meet?

**3****Prediction**

You are going to listen to a recording about a billionaire planning a trip to the Moon. Why do you think the following things are mentioned?

1. a group of artists
2. 1972
3. fashion
4. 2023



Now listen to the recording. Were your predictions correct?



4 Comprehension

Now decide if the following statements are True or False.

1. There will be a total of eight people on the flight.
2. Maezawa has been planning this trip since 2018.
3. The people Maezawa wants to take must be artists.
4. The passengers must pay some money towards the cost of the flight.
5. The chosen passengers must show that they can help other people by going on the trip.
6. Maezawa and the passengers will land on the Moon for a short time.
7. At first, Maezawa didn't realise that more than two people could go on the trip.
8. Maezawa and Musk don't know each other.

5 Reading: skimming for details

Both Yusaka Maezawa and Elon Musk have been in the news a lot recently. But what do we know about the two billionaires? Quickly skim through the text on the next page and find what happened in the following years.

1. 1971 _____
2. 1975 _____
3. 1980 _____
4. 1993 _____
5. 1998 _____
6. 1999 _____
7. 2001 _____
8. 2019 _____





Elon Musk and Yusaka Maezawa

A tale of two billionaires

1. Text A

Born in 1971 to a South African father and a Canadian mother, Elon Musk grew up in South Africa. By all accounts, he was an introverted child and was bullied. Once he was thrown down a flight of stairs, resulting in him staying in hospital for a week. He developed an early interest in computers and was able to programme computers by the age of 12, creating a PC game called *Blastar* which he sold to a magazine for \$500. His parents divorced in 1980 and he stayed with his father in South Africa before moving to Canada at age 17. After a couple of years, he attended Queen's University in Kingston, but transferred to the University of Pennsylvania in the US where he completed degrees in Economics and Physics.

He went on to co-found *X.com* in 1999, which enabled users to pay for services and goods online. He was kicked out of the company which then went on to become *PayPal*, but when *PayPal* was sold to *eBay*, Musk ultimately received \$100 million. In 2001, this money helped him to start *SpaceX*, a company which aimed at building reasonably-priced and reusable rockets. He has also become CEO of *Tesla, Inc.* which makes the world's best-selling electric cars.

2. Text B

Yusaka Maezawa was born in 1975. While going to school in Tokyo, Japan, he started a band, *Switch Style*, with his friends, releasing a record in 1993. Instead of attending university, he moved to the US with his girlfriend where he began collecting CDs and records. On returning to Japan, he created his first business selling imported albums and CDs using his collection as the core. He was still performing with *Switch Style*, and by 1998, the band was signed to a record label.

That same year, Maezawa founded *Start Today*, selling clothing online in much the same way as he had sold music. By 2001, he decided to choose business over his music career and stopped performing. *Start Today* created a website called *Zozotown* in 2004, becoming increasingly successful. By the time he resigned in 2019, Maezawa was able to sell his shares in the company for \$3.7 billion. He has famously spent a large portion of this fortune on art, so much so that he plans to open a museum to keep it all in!

Sources: *BBC News, Wikipedia, Forbes.com*



6 Focus on meaning

Find words or phrases in the texts which mean the same as the following.

1. _____ many people say (text A)
2. _____ tormented (text A)
3. _____ start a company with someone else (text A)
4. _____ allowed (text A)
5. _____ to make someone leave (text A)
6. _____ the centre of something (text B)
7. _____ decide something is more important than something else (text B)
8. _____ to leave a job (text B)

7 Reading comprehension

Complete the following sentences with one of the options (A-D).

1. Elon Musk has lived in ...
 - a. South Africa.
 - b. Canada.
 - c. the US.
 - d. All of the above
2. His early childhood could be described as ...
 - a. exciting and adventurous.
 - b. troubled and challenging.
 - c. dull and boring.
 - d. interesting and unusual.
3. As a child, Elon Musk was clearly ...
 - a. computer literate and inventive.
 - b. aggressive and a bully.
 - c. out-going and active.
 - d. quiet and average.
4. Musk's companies have been in the ... industries.
 - a. travel and design
 - b. computer and Internet
 - c. finance and transport
 - d. hospitality and catering



5. Maezawa showed ... by starting a band with his classmates.
 - a. he was uninterested in academic pursuits
 - b. early signs of creativity
 - c. interest in being a businessman
 - d. a dedication to music
6. In creating his first business, Maezawa clearly ...
 - a. pursued his areas of interest and knowledge.
 - b. wanted to avoid going to university.
 - c. was concerned his band would fail.
 - d. was trying to get rid of his old music collection.
7. Maezawa's business focused largely on ...
 - a. identifying a supply and creating demand.
 - b. promoting his band within the music industry.
 - c. the business created by the world of fashion.
 - d. the relatively new area of online retail.
8. Both Musk and Maezawa ...
 - a. used their knowledge of finance to create their wealth.
 - b. created companies and profited from the sale of shares.
 - c. used the Internet as the basis of their companies.
 - d. were brilliant academics and took risks.

8**Talking point**

In pairs, discuss the following questions.

1. Would you want to apply for a position to go on the trip to the Moon? Why/Why not?
2. If you were in a position to take eight people, who would you choose to go with you, and why?
3. Do you believe that people should be able to make so much money when there are so many problems with hunger and disease in the world? Explain your ideas.
4. Who are the richest people in your country? What do people think of them?

9**Extended activity/homework**

Do some research on a billionaire from your country or who you are interested in. Write a paragraph or two about them. Make sure it answers the following questions.

- What was their early life like?
- How did they make their money?
- Did they have any problems/failures?
- What is your opinion about them?