

Elon Musk buys Twitter for \$44 billion

28th April, 2022



The world's richest person, Elon Musk, has bought the social media site Twitter. Mr Musk bought the company for \$44 billion. On April the 4th, he bought 9.1 per cent of Twitter for \$2.64 billion. Twitter's value rose by 27 per cent after this. Musk then made a

follow-up offer to buy the whole company, but the board of directors rejected this. However, on April the 25th, the board publicly accepted Mr Musk's offer. Musk is number seven on the list of Twitter's most-followed people. He has 84 million followers. Former U.S. President Barack Obama tops the list with 131 million followers. Twitter's co-founder Jack Dorsey said he was happy that Mr Musk is Twitter's new owner. He said: "I trust his mission."

Mr Musk said he wants to open up Twitter more to free speech. One of his biggest aims is to remove spam bots, which fill Twitter with fake tweets. Many spam bots are used to tweet false information to people voting in elections. They are also used to spread conspiracy theories about vaccinations, immigration and other social issues. Mr Musk said he wants to introduce new products. He said the company has "tremendous potential". One big question people are asking is whether Musk will allow former U.S. President Donald Trump back on the platform. He was banned in January 2021. Other concerns people have are about hate speech. Human rights groups say a more open Twitter could lead to a rise in hate speech.

Sources: [bbc.com](https://www.bbc.com) / [eff.org](https://www.eff.org) / [cnbc.com](https://www.cnbc.com)

Writing

Free speech is very, very important. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

richest person / social media / company / value / whole / directors / happy / trust / Twitter / free speech / spam bots / conspiracy theories / question / concerns / hate

True / False

- 1) Elon Musk is the second-richest person in the world. T / F
- 2) Elon Musk bought 91% of Twitter on April the 4th. T / F
- 3) Elon Musk has the seventh most followers on Twitter. T / F
- 4) A previous boss of Twitter is unhappy that Mr Musk is the new boss. T / F
- 5) Mr Musk wants to get rid of spam bots from Twitter. T / F
- 6) Spam bots do not spread conspiracy theories on Twitter. T / F
- 7) Mr Musk has said Donald Trump can continue his Twitter account. T / F
- 8) Human rights groups are worried about a rise in hate speech. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. richest | a. goals |
| 2. bought | b. believe in |
| 3. rose | c. possibilities |
| 4. whole | d. purchased |
| 5. trust | e. untrue |
| 6. aims | f. worries |
| 7. false | g. wealthiest |
| 8. potential | h. let |
| 9. allow | i. increased |
| 10. concerns | j. entire |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of Twitter?
- b) How important is free speech?
- c) Are you free to say anything in your country?
- d) Do you think Twitter is good or bad?
- e) What's the best social media platform?
- f) Is it OK for one person to own Twitter?
- g) Who do you like to follow on social media?
- h) What advice do you have for Elon Musk?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. The world's | a. spam bots |
| 2. Twitter's value rose by 27 per cent | b. followed people |
| 3. Musk then made a follow- | c. theories |
| 4. the list of Twitter's most- | d. the list |
| 5. Barack Obama tops | e. rights groups |
| 6. One of his biggest aims is to remove | f. after this |
| 7. spam bots are used to tweet false | g. potential |
| 8. conspiracy | h. up offer |
| 9. the company has tremendous | i. information |
| 10. Human | j. richest person |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Elon Musk?
- What do you know about spam bots?
- What do you think of conspiracy theories?
- Have you read false information about vaccinations?
- Should Twitter allow Donald Trump back?
- What new things should Twitter do?
- What questions would you like to ask Elon Musk?

Spelling

- Twitter's vuale rose by 27 per cent
- buy the hlewo company
- the board of tcdrieros
- the board publicly aedcptic Mr Musk's offer
- Obama tops the list with 131 million flesolwro
- I trust his mionssi
- tweet lfaes information
- conspiracy eehotirs
- the company has tremendous eotnatilp
- back on the latfpomr
- Other nnoecscr people have
- Human hirgts groups

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Twitter

You think Twitter is the best social media site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Facebook, TikTok or Instagram.

Role B – Facebook

You think Facebook is the best social media site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Twitter, TikTok or Instagram.

Role C – TikTok

You think TikTok is the best social media site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Facebook, Twitter or Instagram.

Role D – Instagram

You think Instagram is the best social media site. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their sites. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Facebook, TikTok or Twitter.

Speaking – Social Media

Rank these with your partner. Put the best social media sites at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| • TikTok | • Twitter |
| • Instagram | • Facebook |
| • LinkedIn | • YouTube |
| • Pinterest | • Reddit |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 F | 2 F | 3 T | 4 F | 5 T | 6 F | 7 F | 8 T |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.