



Warmer

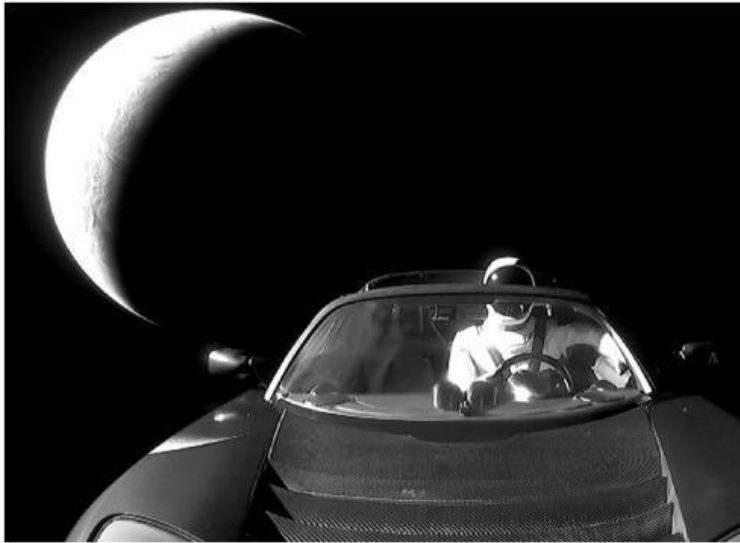
- 1 Think of an invention that you think has changed people's lives for the better and answer the questions.
 - 1 Does it create **smog** or other forms of pollution?
 - 2 Is it an electronic **device**?
 - 3 Is it **high tech**?
 - 4 How / Where can it be **purchased**?
 - 5 Is it **affordable** for the general public or does it **cost a fortune**?
 - 6 Does it have a **battery**?
 - 7 Do you have to **plug it in** and if so, how often?
- 2 Work with a partner. Share your answers and ask and answer any additional questions to help you guess what each other's invention is.

Reading

- 1 Read the title and look at the picture. What do you think the text will be about? Do you know anything about this topic?
- 2 Skim the questions and the text quickly and check your ideas.

You are going to read a magazine article about an inventor. There are six sentences missing. Choose from sentences A-G the one which fits in gaps 1-6. There is one extra sentence you do not need to use.

- A Musk had a feeling it would be the one, so he sent something special to together with the cargo - a Tesla car. There is actually one in space, right now.
- B The answer is that he was one of the masterminds behind probably the most popular means of online payment - Paypal.
- C It's largely due to his charismatic personality, which especially shines on Twitter.
- D After years investing in research and development, they may have finally done just that.
- E However, Musk viewed this issue as perfectly solvable, so after years of trial and error - and a few moments where dwindling results meant dwindling funds - he finally revolutionised the industry.
- F What Musk wanted was something that would drastically reduce travel times and be more environmentally-friendly.
- G In other words, not even enough time to read a newspaper.



The genius of Elon Musk

Imagine a world where smog is no longer a problem in our major cities. Or a car which allows you to rest and relax whilst you are sat behind the wheel. Tesla Motors was set up in 2003 with the intention of realising both.

1 The fully electric, self-driving car is here. It's fast, it can travel up to 500 miles without having to charge the battery by plugging the car in and, what's more, it's relatively affordable. Plus, Musk promises the self-driving capability makes the car a whole lot safer, with cameras and sensors that can even see through other cars. And if that sounds like magic, wait to hear what Musk is doing in space

Musk's other well-known venture is SpaceX, a space exploration company he started in 2002. It builds space rockets and launches them to carry satellites, deliver packages and run all sorts of other errands for government agencies such as NASA in the US. Its success is, once again, due to Musk's genius engineering skills and ingenuity. Launching objects into space had always been prohibitively expensive because the rockets themselves need to be brought back to earth, just to be crashed safely in the middle of the ocean, and then built again from scratch **2** . In 2018's most spectacular launch, SpaceX landed its rockets on land, and they have been reusing them ever since. **3** . And if that's not cool enough, SpaceX's longer-term mission is to go to Mars and colonise it. He says we could be ready as early as in 2024.

At this point you would think he'd be busy enough, but there's more. Musk has also turned his hand to improving public transport systems. **4** . His solution is the

Hyperloop, a kind of levitating train that moves along airless tubes. The lack of friction caused by contact with the ground and by the air would potentially allow the pod to travel at speeds as high as 1200km an hour, effectively making the journey between Paris and London, which is currently 2 hours 16 minutes, into a relaxing 18 minute train ride. **5** . We'll have to keep our fingers crossed, though, as in practice its construction is proving more complicated than expected, but a prototype has been presented in LA. Incidentally, LA is the site of yet another of Musk's potential solutions to transport problems - a network of underground car tunnels - with the help of Musk's other company, "the Boring Company", to dig the tunnels, of course. Again, the prototype tunnel already exists.

But how did Mr Musk get the money to invest in such projects? **6** . When it was sold to EBay in 2002, it made him a fortune. Admittedly, so far his newer endeavours, as innovative as they may sound, have not yet been as profitable or as game-changing as PayPal, but who is to say that won't change. One thing is certain, many of Musk's ever-growing Twitter fan base of over 26 million followers are rooting for him to succeed.



Tip

To help you decide where the missing sentences belong, look for clues in the text and the options to help you. Looking at the use of referencing words like pronouns, especially *it*, or determiners such as *this/that/these/those* can help you choose.