# Elon Musk

South African-born Elon Musk inspired Robert Downey Jnr's portrayal of the billionaire industrialist Tony Stark in the Iron Man films. The role model for Mr Musk, a billionaire industrialist for real, appears to be Henry Ford.

The Ford founder's mastery of mass production made the Model T the first affordable car, revolutionising transportation. Mr Musk, who named Tesla Motors' saloon the Model S as a nod to Henry's car, sees himself similarly as an engineer, a tinkerer, a nitty-gritty entrepreneur.

“I don't spend my time pontificating about high-concept things. I spend my time solving engineering and manufacturing problems,” says Mr Musk, 42. “Have you seen my desk? It's right there in the middle of the factory,” he adds, pointing to a drab workspace beside the Model S line. “It doesn't look like Tony Stark's office.”

Level C1, 134 words

From *Road to Grammar: http://www.roadtogrammar.com/*