**TIGER WOODS: Professional Golfer**

**Eldrick Tont** "**Tiger**" **Woods** (born December 30, 1975) is an American [professional golfer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Professional_golfer). He is tied for first in [PGA Tour wins](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_golfers_with_most_PGA_Tour_wins), ranks second in [men's major championships](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_men%27s_major_championships_winning_golfers), and holds [numerous golf records](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_career_achievements_by_Tiger_Woods).[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-great-6) Woods is widely regarded as one of the greatest golfers of all time and is one of the most famous athletes in modern history.[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-great-6) He is an inductee of the [World Golf Hall of Fame](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Golf_Hall_of_Fame).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-7)

Following an outstanding junior, college, and amateur golf career, Woods turned professional in 1996 at the age of 20. By the end of April 1997, he had won three [PGA Tour](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PGA_Tour) events in addition to his first major, the [1997 Masters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1997_Masters_Tournament), which he won by 12 strokes in a record-breaking performance. He reached [number one](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_World_Number_One_male_golfers) in the [Official World Golf Ranking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Official_World_Golf_Ranking) for the first time in June 1997, less than a year after turning pro. Throughout the first decade of the 21st century, Woods was the dominant force in golf. He was the top-ranked golfer in the world from August 1999 to September 2004 (264 consecutive weeks) and again from June 2005 to October 2010 (281 consecutive weeks). During this time, he won 13 of golf's major championships.

The next decade of Woods's career was marked by comebacks from personal problems and injuries. He took a self-imposed hiatus from professional golf from December 2009 to early April 2010 in an attempt to resolve marital issues with his wife at the time, [Elin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elin_Nordegren%22%20%5Co%20%22Elin%20Nordegren). Woods admitted to multiple [marital infidelities](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marital_infidelity), and the couple eventually [divorced](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Divorce).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-legend-8) He fell to number 58 in the world rankings in November 2011 before ascending again to the number-one ranking between March 2013 and May 2014.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-Westwood-9)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-chevron-10) However, injuries led him to undergo four [back surgeries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discectomy) between 2014 and 2017.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-11) Woods competed in only one tournament between August 2015 and January 2018, and he dropped off the list of the world's top 1,000 golfers.[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-12)[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiger_Woods#cite_note-reid-13) On his return to regular competition, Woods made steady progress to the top of the game, winning his first tournament in five years at the [Tour Championship](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tour_Championship) in September 2018 and his first major in 11 years at the [2019 Masters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2019_Masters_Tournament). **(read more):**

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