



# ALBERT EINSTEIN

**Born:** March 14, 1879 in  
Ulm, Germany

**In 1904:** Einstein was 25. He worked at the federal patent office in Bern, Switzerland and lived in an unremarkable second-floor apartment where he hosted regular gatherings of the Olympia Academy, a group of friends who met to discuss physics and philosophy. He was denied a promotion at the patent office, struggled financially, and feared that his chance for a scientific career was slipping away from him.

## **Breakthrough Work:**

In the spring of 1905, Einstein had his "Annus Mirabilis" (Miraculous Year). He published four papers—on light, Brownian motion, special relativity, and the equivalence of mass and energy—that would forever transform the study of physics and fundamentally shape scientific views of space and time for generations to come.

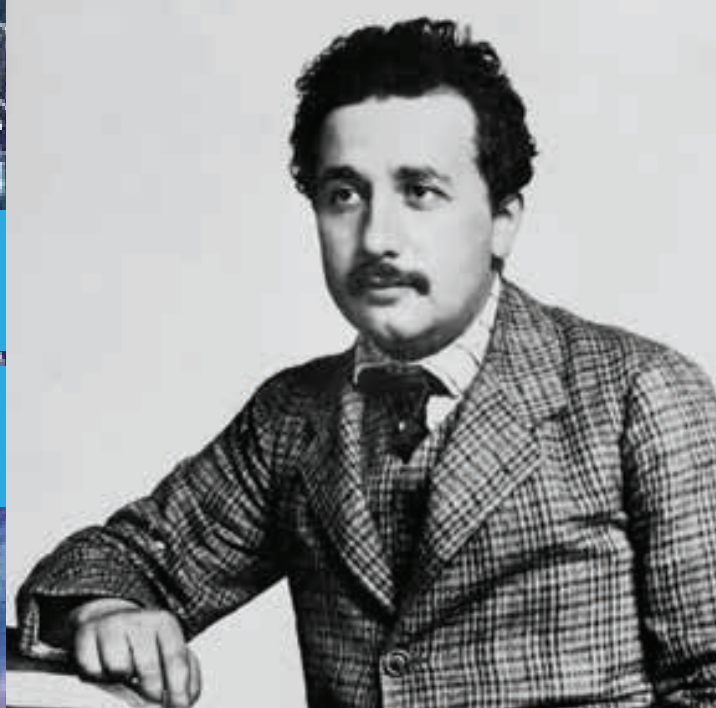
## **Reception:**

The lasting impact of Einstein's work was not immediately apparent. He continued to work at the patent office until 1909 and was not widely recognized in his field until 1911.

**"When I started writing, I just started typing and Albert Einstein walked in. That's the way it happened. And I just couldn't make him go out, you know? And then I really understood. I knew what I was going to write about."**

**— Steve Martin**

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Albert Einstein in 1904.

$$E = mc^2$$