**Origin of superhumen powers**

Most of the superhumen in Marvel's Earth owe their powers to the [Celestials](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Celestial_(comics)), cosmic entities who visited Earth millions of years ago and experimented on our [prehistoric](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prehistoric) ancestors (a process they also carried out on several other planets). This resulted in the creation of two [hidden races](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hidden_races_(Marvel_Comics)), the godlike [Eternals](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternals_(comics)) and the genetically unstable [Deviants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deviant_(comics)), in addition to giving some humans an "x-factor" in their genes, which sometimes activates naturally, resulting in sometimes super powered, sometimes disfigured individuals called [mutants](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutant_(Marvel_Comics)). Others require other factors (such as [radiation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ionizing_radiation)) for their powers to come forth. Depending on the genetic profile, individuals who are exposed to different chemicals or radiation will often suffer death or injury, while in others it will cause superhuman abilities to manifest. Except for [psionic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Psionic" \o "Psionic) abilities, these powers are usually random; rarely do two people have the same set of powers. It is not clear why the Celestials did this, although it is known that they continue to observe humanity's evolution. A Marvel series titled [*Earth X*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_X) explored one possible reason for this: that superhumen are meant to protect a Celestial embryo that grows inside Earth against any planetary threats and have done so for eons. An X-Men villain that is known as [Vargas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vargas_(comics)) claims to be a new direction in human evolution, as he is born with superpowers even though his genetic profile said he was an ordinary human being. The majority of the public is unaware of what may cause superhuman powers.[[*volume & issue needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citing_sources)]

Other possible origins for superhuman powers include [magic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magic_(paranormal)), [genetic manipulation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Genetic_engineering) and/or [bionic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bionics) implants. Some heroes and villains have no powers at all but depend instead on hand-to-hand combat training or advanced technological equipment. In the Marvel Universe, technology is considerably more advanced than in the real world; this is due to unique individuals of genius-level intelligence, such as Reed Richards ([Mister Fantastic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mister_Fantastic)) of the Fantastic Four. However, most of the advanced devices (such as [powered armor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artificial_powered_exoskeleton) and [death rays](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_ray)) are too expensive for the common citizen, and are usually in the hands of government organizations like S.H.I.E.L.D., or powerful criminal organizations like [A.I.M.](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advanced_Idea_Mechanics) One major company producing these devices is Stark Industries, owned by Tony Stark ([Iron Man](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron_Man)), but there are others. Advanced technology has also been given to humans by hidden races, aliens, or [time travelers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Time_travel) like [Kang the Conqueror](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kang_the_Conqueror), who is known to have influenced the [robotics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robotics) industry in the past.[[*volume & issue needed*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:Citing_sources)]

In superhumen, the energy required for their superpowers either comes from within using their own body as a source or, if the demand of energy exceeds what their body is capable to deliver, comes from another source.