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Lex Luthor the arch enemy of Clark Kent , appeared in many comics , and is the only mortal who can challenge Superman . In The Superman Classics in the 70's & 80's , Gene Hackman portayed Lex Luthor , in a comic way , he showed off he's intelligence and was arrogant . At The Fortress Of Solitude scene in Superman II , Superman asked Lex for help against Zod , Lex knew clark had no chance against a Triple Kryptonian Threat , he put mankind at stake and thought of his self only . When General Zod was taken down , Lex tried to make Superman understand that he stood with him all along , but Clark didn't fall for his ruse . So , There you have Gene Hackman a comic and also evil Lex Luthor ! The biggest failure was Kevin Spacey's portrayal of Lex Luthor he tried imitating Gene Hackman