

NAMES AND SYMBOLS OF THE FIRST THIRTY ELEMENTS

You should know the names (correctly spelled) and symbols of the first thirty elements. It is not necessary to learn the atomic number or weights. The third column contains interesting facts that you are not required to know.

Hydrogen	H	The name means “water former”, discovered in 1766, most abundant element in the universe but almost never found free on earth.
Helium	He	Named from “helios” meaning the sun, discovered in 1868, found in natural gas wells in the US.
Lithium	Li	Named from “lithos” meaning stone, discovered in 1817, used in ceramics, alloys, the H bomb, treating gout and manic depression.
Beryllium	Be	Found in the mineral beryl, discovered in 1798, used in extremely elastic alloys, springs and nosecones of rockets.
Boron	B	Found in borax and boric acid, discovered in 1808, used as both a plant food and also a weed killer.
Carbon	C	Named from “carbo” meaning charcoal, known since prehistoric times, component of all living matter.
Nitrogen	N	Name means “nitre forming”, discovered in 1772, makes up 78% of air, found in proteins, explosives, and anesthetic laughing gas.
Oxygen	O	Name means “acid former”, discovered in 1774, commonest element on earth making up 21% of the atmosphere, and 67% of the human body
Fluorine	F	Name means “to flow”, discovered in 1771, most reactive of all gases; when it flows over wood the wood bursts into flame spectacularly.
Neon	Ne	Name means “new”, discovered in 1898, used mainly in advertising signs.
Sodium	Na	Named from the Latin “natrium”, discovered in 1807, 6 th most abundant element, found in table salt, baking soda, lye.
Magnesium	Mg	Discovered in 1775, used in bombs, firecrackers, flash bulbs, important trace mineral in the human body - a deficiency of Mg causes among other symptoms, delirium tremens (same as alcoholism).
Aluminum	Al	Found in and named after alum, discovered in 1827, most abundant metal on earth, used in a variety of metal products from toothpaste tubes to airplane wings.
Silicon	Si	Named from “silex” meaning flint, discovered in 1823, 2 nd most abundant element on earth, 25% of earth’s crust, used to make glass and cement.

OVER

Phosphorus	P	Name means “light bearer”, discovered in 1669, found in detergents and matches.
Sulfur	S	Name means “brimstone”, known in Biblical times, found in matches, insecticides, and rubber tires.
Chlorine	Cl	Name means “yellow-green”, discovered in 1774, used as bleach, disinfectant, and poison gas used in World War I.
Argon	Ar	Name means “inactive”, discovered in 1894, most abundant noble gas, used in welding to provide an inert atmosphere.
Potassium	K	Named from Latin “kalium” meaning clay, discovered in 1807, 7 th most abundant element on earth, found most often in potash.
Calcium	Ca	Named from “calx” meaning lime, 5 th most abundant element on earth, discovered in 1808, important in bones, teeth, and regulating heartbeat.
Scandium	Sc	Named because it was found in Scandinavia, discovered in 1879, no commercial uses yet.
Titanium	Ti	Named for the Titans (Greek superheroes) because of its great strength, discovered in 1791, construction material for supersonic aircraft.
Vanadium	V	Named for Vanadis (Scandinavian goddess), makes steel shock and vibration resistant, used in alloys for armor plate, axles, and piston rods.
Chromium	Cr	Named from “chroma” meaning color, discovered in 1797, forms brilliantly colored pigments, also used to make special steel alloys.
Manganese	Mn	Named from magnet, discovered in 1774, it was confused with magnetic iron ore and therefore misnamed, gives steel a hard yet pliant quality, necessary for normal bone growth, activates many enzymes in living systems.
Iron	Fe	From the Latin “ferrum”, utilized by prehistoric man, 4 th most abundant element, carries oxygen in the bloodstream.
Cobalt	Co	Name means “evil spirit” because the ores mined were poisonous, discovered in 1735, used in radiation treatment of cancer, to color porcelain and enamels, and in alloys for jet propulsion engines.
Nickel	Ni	Named from the German meaning “false copper” because the ore is reddish and resembles copper ores; since it is hard and durable it is used in coins.
Copper	Cu	Named from Latin “cuprum” which is the name for a site in Cyprus of old copper mines, alloyed with zinc to make brass and with tin to make bronze.
Zinc	Zn	Named from the German word for tin for which it was mistaken, discovered in the 16 th century, excellent coating metal, used as alloy.