

What Is the Atomic Theory?

Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

atom [AT•uhm] the smallest part of a pure substance that has the properties of that substance

Atom ends with the sound at the beginning of *minute*. An *atom* is minute—very, very tiny.

atomic theory [uh•TAHM•ik THEER•ee] a scientific explanation of the structure of atoms and how they interact with other atoms

Theory and *thought* begin with the same sound. *Atomic theory* is scientists' thoughts on what atoms are made of and how atoms behave.

element [EL•uh•muhnt] the type of matter made of just one kind of atom

In the word *element*, all the vowels are the same. In a real *element*, all the atoms are the same.

compound [KAHM•pownd] a substance formed by at least two types of atoms that are chemically combined

A *compound* word is made of two or more words that are put together. In science, a *compound* is made of two or more kinds of atoms.

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Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. An atom of something, such as silver, is the smallest particle of it that has all its properties.
2. Scientists' ideas about what atoms are made of and how they behave is their atomic theory.
3. Atoms, the building blocks of all matter, are made of protons, neutrons, and electrons.
4. An element is made up of just one kind of atom.
5. All atoms of an element have the same number of protons; no other element has that number.
6. There are more than 100 elements.
7. A compound is two or more types of atoms that have gone through a chemical change.
8. The properties of compounds are different from the properties of the elements that form them.
9. Water is a compound of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom.
10. Salt is a compound of sodium atoms and chlorine atoms.