

# THE MATTER OF METAL

hydrogen 1 H 1.0079																																helium 2 He 4.0026																			
lithium 3 Li 6.941		beryllium 4 Be 9.012														boron 5 B 10.811		carbon 6 C 12.011		nitrogen 7 N 14.007		oxygen 8 O 15.999		fluorine 9 F 18.998		neon 10 Ne 20.180																									
sodium 11 Na 22.990		magnesium 12 Mg 24.305		aluminum 13 Al 26.982		silicon 14 Si 28.086		phosphorus 15 P 30.974		sulfur 16 S 32.065		chlorine 17 Cl 35.453		argon 18 Ar 39.948		potassium 19 K 39.098		calcium 20 Ca 40.078		scandium 21 Sc 44.956		titanium 22 Ti 47.867		vanadium 23 V 50.942		chromium 24 Cr 51.996		manganese 25 Mn 54.938		iron 26 Fe 55.845		cobalt 27 Co 58.933		nickel 28 Ni 58.693		copper 29 Cu 63.546		zinc 30 Zn 65.38		gallium 31 Ga 69.723		germanium 32 Ge 72.64		arsenic 33 As 74.922		selenium 34 Se 78.96		bromine 35 Br 79.904		krypton 36 Kr 83.798	
potassium 19 K 39.098		calcium 20 Ca 40.078		scandium 21 Sc 44.956		titanium 22 Ti 47.867		vanadium 23 V 50.942		chromium 24 Cr 51.996		manganese 25 Mn 54.938		iron 26 Fe 55.845		cobalt 27 Co 58.933		nickel 28 Ni 58.693		copper 29 Cu 63.546		zinc 30 Zn 65.38		gallium 31 Ga 69.723		germanium 32 Ge 72.64		arsenic 33 As 74.922		selenium 34 Se 78.96		bromine 35 Br 79.904		krypton 36 Kr 83.798																	
rubidium 37 Rb 85.468		strontium 38 Sr 87.62		yttrium 39 Y 88.906		zirconium 40 Zr 91.224		niobium 41 Nb 92.906		molybdenum 42 Mo 95.94		technetium 43 Tc [98]		ruthenium 44 Ru 101.07		rhodium 45 Rh 102.91		palladium 46 Pd 106.42		silver 47 Ag 107.87		cadmium 48 Cd 112.41		indium 49 In 114.82		tin 50 Sn 118.71		antimony 51 Sb 121.76		tellurium 52 Te 127.60		iodine 53 I 126.90		xenon 54 Xe 131.29																	
caesium 55 Cs 132.91		barium 56 Ba 137.33		lanthanum 57 La 138.91		cerium 58 Ce 140.12		praseodymium 59 Pr 140.91		neodymium 60 Nd 144.24		promethium 61 Pm [145]		samarium 62 Sm 150.36		europium 63 Eu 151.96		gadolinium 64 Gd 157.25		terbium 65 Tb 158.93		dysprosium 66 Dy 162.50		holmium 67 Ho 164.93		erbium 68 Er 167.26		thulium 69 Tm 168.93		ytterbium 70 Yb 173.05		lutetium 71 Lu 174.97																			
francium 87 Fr [223]		radium 88 Ra [226]		actinium 89 Ac [227]		thorium 90 Th 232.04		protactinium 91 Pa 231.04		uranium 92 U 238.03		neptunium 93 Np [237]		plutonium 94 Pu [244]		americium 95 Am [243]		curium 96 Cm [247]		berkelium 97 Bk [247]		californium 98 Cf [251]		einsteinium 99 Es [252]		fermium 100 Fm [257]		mendelevium 101 Md [258]		nobelium 102 No [259]		lawrencium 103 Lr [262]																			

The question “what is a metal?” is obviously important! In chemistry, they are a broad category. In fact, most of the elements in the periodic table are metals! (The metallic elements are coloured in yellow).

This means that a lot more things contain metals (or their compounds) than you might think! Calcium, for example, the stuff in milk that helps your bones grow stronger, is a metal. Sodium and potassium are also metals, though (like calcium) they are rarely seen in their metallic form. They react so violently with water that they must be stored in special oil to prevent them burning away!. Nevertheless, they share all of the key features of metallic elements:



Metals are **MALLEABLE**, which means they can be hammered or pressed into shape without breaking or cracking. They are **CONDUCTIVE** to electricity and heat. Another important fact about most of the metals that we encounter on a daily basis, is that they are **HARD** and **SHINY**. These means that metals are not only be useful for many different jobs, but they are also very attractive. In the past, just like now, glittering jewellery and sharp tools were good ways to get noticed!