

School to Home

LESSON 2

Protons, Neutrons, and Electrons—How Atoms Differ

Directions: Use your textbook to answer each question.

1. Atoms are composed of particles called protons, neutrons, and electrons.

Describe the relative mass, the charge, and the location within the atom of protons, neutrons, and electrons.

2. There are 115 different elements. Each has its own distinct properties.

Describe the way atoms of elements differ.

3. Most elements have different isotopes.

Identify how atoms of isotopes differ from one another.

4. Some elements have an unstable nucleus that changes into a more stable nucleus through nuclear decay.

Identify and describe three types of nuclear decay.

5. Neutral atoms sometimes gain or lose electrons. Atoms that are no longer neutral because they have gained or lost electrons are called ions.

Describe the charge on an atom that has lost electrons. Then describe the charge on an atom that has gained electrons.
