

Quick Vocabulary

Lesson 1

atom smallest piece of an element that still represents the element

electron atomic particle with one negative charge (1-)

electron cloud area around an atomic nucleus where an electron is most likely to be found

neutron neutral particle in the nucleus of an atom

nucleus small area in the center of an atom in which most of an atom's mass and positive charge is concentrated

proton atomic particle with one positive charge (1+)

Lesson 2

atomic number the number of protons in an atom of an element

average atomic mass average mass of an element's isotopes, weighted according to the abundance of each isotope

ion atom that is no longer neutral because it has gained or lost electrons

isotope any of two or more atoms of the same element that have different numbers of neutrons

mass number sum of the number of protons and neutrons in an atom

nuclear decay process that occurs when an unstable atomic nucleus changes into another more stable nucleus by emitting radiation

radioactive describes elements that spontaneously emit radiation

spontaneous occurring without external force or cause