

Important Terms

- **atom** - smallest piece of an element that keeps its chemical properties
- **compound** - substance that can be broken into elements by chemical reactions
- **electron** - particle orbiting the nucleus of an atom with a negative charge (mass = 9.10×10^{-28} grams)
- **element** - substance that cannot be broken down by chemical reactions
- **ion** - electrically charged atom (i.e., excess positive or negative charge)
- **molecule** - smallest piece of a compound that keeps its chemical properties (made of two or more atoms)
- **neutron** - particle in the nucleus of an atom with no charge (mass = 1.675×10^{-24} grams)
- **nucleus** - dense, central core of an atom (made of protons and neutrons)
- **proton** - particle in the nucleus of an atom with a positive charge (mass = 1.673×10^{-24} grams)