Reading a periodic-table tile

Relative atomic mass on top · symbol · proton number on the bottom (the textbook convention)

Ecolint
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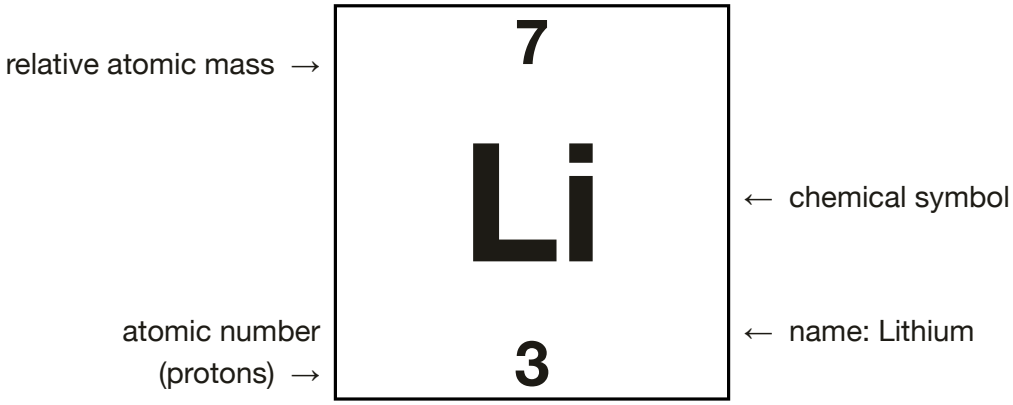
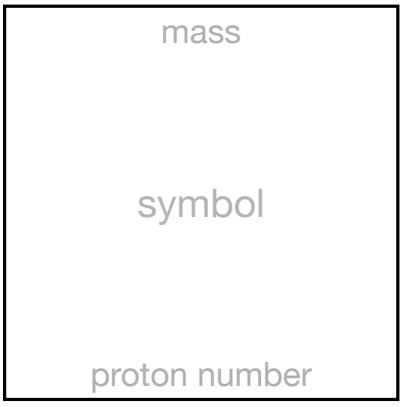
v2.1



The two numbers tell you the particles. Protons = the bottom number. In a neutral atom, electrons = protons. **Neutrons = mass – protons** = 7 – 3 = **4**. So this tile is lithium-7: **3 protons, 3 electrons, 4 neutrons.**

Your turn — fill one in



Choose an element. Write its **relative atomic mass** on top, the **symbol** in the middle, and the **proton number** on the bottom. Then work out:

protons = _____ electrons = _____

neutrons = mass – protons = _____