

## Names of the Elements 15

There are more than 105 elements. Each has a name and a symbol. The name may have Greek, Latin, German, Spanish or Arabic origins. Some elements are named for scientists, planets, and countries. The element's symbol consists of one or two letters from the name. The first letter is capitalized. The symbol may be related to the old name for the element.

Element	Symbol	Origin
actinium	Ac	Gr. aktis (ray)
aluminum	Al	L. alumen (alum, bitter)
americium	Am	America
antimony	Sb	L. stibium (mark)
argon	Ar	Gr. argos (inactive)
arsenic	As	Gr. arsenikon (yellow mineral)
astatine	At	Gr. astatos (unstable)
barium	Ba	Gr. barys (heavy)
berkelium	Bk	Berkeley (city in California),
beryllium	Be	Gr. beryl (a mineral)
bismuth	Bi	Ger. bisemutum (white mass)
boron	B	Ar. buraq (white, borax)
bromine	Br	Gr. bromos (stench)
cadmium	Cd	L. cadmia (calamine mineral impurity)
calcium	Ca	L. calx (lime)
californium	Cf	California
carbon	C	L. carbo (charcoal)
cerium	Ce	Ceres (asteroid)
cesium	Cs	L. caesius (sky blue)
chlorine	Cl	Gr. chloros (yellow-green)
chromium	Cr	Gr. chroma (color)
cobalt	Co	Ger. kobold (goblin)
copper	Cu	L. cuprum (Cyprus, copper mines)
curium	Cm	Marie and Pierre Curie
dysprosium	Dy	Gr. dysprositos (hard to get)
einsteinium	Es	Albert Einstein
erbium	Er	Ytterby (town in Sweden)
europium	Eu	Europe
fermium	Fm	Enrico Fermi
fluorine	F	L. fleure (flow, flux)

francium	Fr	France
gadolinium	Gd	Johan Gadolin
gallium	Ga	L. Gallia (old name for France)
germanium	Ge	Germany
gold	Au	L. aurum (shining dawn, gold)
hafnium	Hf	L. Hafnia (Copenhagen)
helium	He	Gr. Helios (the Sun)
holmium	Ho	L. Holmia (Stockholm)
hydrogen	H	Gr. hydro genes (water forming)
indium	In	indigo
iodine	I	Gr. iodes (violet, purple)
iridium	Ir	L. iris (rainbow)
iron	Fe	L. ferrum (firm)
krypton	Kr	Gr. kryptos (hidden)
lanthanum	La	Gr. lanthanein (lie hidden)
lawrencium	Lr	Ernest O. Lawrence
lead	Pb	L. plumbum (heavy)
lithium	Li	Gr. lithos (stone)
lutetium	Lu	L. Lutetia (Paris)
magnesium	Mg	Magnesia (area in Greece)
manganese	Mn	L. magnes (magnet)
mendelevium	Md	Dmitri Mendeleev
mercury	Hg	L. hydragyrum (liquid silver)
molybdenum	Mo	Gr. molybdos (lead)
neodymium	Nd	Gr. neos didymos (new twin)
neon	Ne	Gr. neos (new)
neptunium	Np	Neptune
nickel	Ni	Ger. nickel (devil)
niobium	Nb	Gr. Niobe (Greek god)
nitrogen	N	Gr. nitron (native soda forming)
nobelium	No	Alfred Nobel
osmium	Os	Gr. osme (smell)
oxygen	O	Gr. oxys gen (acid born)
palladium	Pd	Pallas (asteroid)
phosphorus	P	Gr. phosphoros (light bearing)
platinum	Pt	Sp. platina (silver)
plutonium	Pu	Pluto
polonium	Po	Poland
potassium	K	L. kalium (potash)
praseodymium	Pr	Gr. praseos didymos (green twin)

promethium	Pm	Gr. Prometheus (Greek god)
protactinium	Pa	Gr. protos actinium (first actinium)
radium	Ra	L. radius (ray)
radon	Rn	from Radium
rhenium	Re	L. Rhenus (Rhine river)
rhodium	Rh	Gr. rhodon (rose)
rubidium	Rb	L. rubidus (red)
ruthenium	Ru	L. Ruthenia (Russia)
samarium	Sm	Samarskite (a mineral)
scandium	Sc	L. Scandia (Scandinavia)
selenium	Se	Gr. Selene (moon)
silicon	Si	L. silicis (flint)
silver	Ag	L. argentum (silver)
sodium	Na	L. natrium (soda)
strontium	Sr	Strontian (town in Scotland)
sulfur	S	L. sulphurium (burning stone)
tantalum	Ta	Gr. Tantalus (Greek god)
technetium	Tc	Gr. technetos (artificial)
tellurium	Te	L. tellus (earth)
terbium	Tb	Ytterby Sweden
thallium	Tl	Gr. thallos (young shoot)
thorium	Th	Thor (Swedish God)
thulium	Tm	L. Thule (Scandinavia)
tin	Sn	L. stannum (tin/lead alloy)
titanium	Ti	Gr. for the Titans (Greek gods)
tungsten	W	Ger. from wolframite (a mineral)
uranium	U	Uranus
vanadium	V	Vanadis (Scandinavian goddess)
xenon	Xe	Gr. xenon (stranger)
ytterbium	Yb	Ytterby, Sweden
yttrium	Y	Ytterby, Sweden
zinc	Zn	Ger. zink (zinc)
zirconium	Zr	Ar. zerk (precious stone)

Several of the elements have been known since ancient times. They are; C, Cu, Au, Fe, Pb, Hg, Ag, S, Sn, and I.