

Vocabulary



atom the smallest particle of an element that has the properties of the element

An oxygen atom is the smallest particle of oxygen that has oxygen's properties. If you divide this atom, you have smaller particles, but they don't have oxygen's properties.

compound a pure substance that contains atoms of different elements

Water is an example of a compound. A molecule of water contains two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom.

element a pure substance made of only one type of atom

Copper is an element. If you could divide a piece of copper until it was the smallest piece possible, this piece would be a copper atom.

molecule the smallest particle of a compound

The chemical formula of the compound carbon dioxide (CO_2) shows that a molecule of carbon dioxide contains one atom of carbon (C) and two atoms of oxygen (O).