

Elements, Compounds and Symbols

Chapter 10: Elements, Compounds and Symbols · Topic 1

Key Concept

Each element has a unique chemical symbol, like H for hydrogen, O for oxygen, and Fe for iron (from its Latin name, ferrum).

A compound forms when two or more elements combine chemically, like water (H_2O), made of hydrogen and oxygen.

Compounds have different properties from the elements that make them - water is very different from hydrogen and oxygen gases.

Learning element symbols and compound formulas helps us understand and communicate chemistry clearly and precisely.

Quick Revision Notes

- Elements have unique chemical symbols.
- H = hydrogen, O = oxygen, Fe = iron.
- Compounds form when elements combine chemically.
- Water (H_2O) is a compound of hydrogen and oxygen.
- Compounds have different properties than their elements.
- Water differs greatly from hydrogen and oxygen gas.
- Symbols and formulas communicate chemistry clearly.
- This is fundamental chemistry knowledge.

Practice Questions

- 1 Write the chemical symbols for five elements.
- 2 Discuss why water's formula is H_2O .
- 3 Research another common compound and its formula.
- 4 Explain why water differs from hydrogen and oxygen gas.
- 5 Create a chart of five elements and their symbols.
- 6 Discuss why chemical symbols are useful.