

Atom Definition Chemistry

Atom Definition Chemistry - Atom Definition. A typical atom consists of a nucleus of positively-charged protons and electrically neutral neutrons with negatively-charged electrons orbiting this nucleus. However, an atom can consist of a single proton (i.e., the protium isotope of hydrogen) as a nucleus. The number of protons defines the identity of an atom or its element. Definition of Atom. Atoms are composed of electrons and a nucleus. The nucleus contains protons and neutrons. All atoms are electrically neutral, because every atom has an equal number of electrons and protons. Nearly all of the atom's mass is located in the nucleus. The nucleus is tiny compared with the total size of the atom. Atoms are the basic units of matter and the defining structure of elements. The term "atom" comes from the Greek word for indivisible, because it was once thought that atoms were the smallest things in the universe and could not be divided. We now know that atoms are made up of three particles: protons, ...atom definition: The definition of an atom is the smallest component of an element, characterized by a sharing of the chemical properties of the element and a nucleus with neutrons, protons and electrons.