

Hydrogen

Hydrogen is the most common element in the universe. In fact, about 75% of the mass of the universe is made of hydrogen atoms! Hydrogen is the first element on the periodic table and got its name because it is found in water (Hydro means water in Latin). Scientists use the capital letter H to represent Hydrogen.

The chemical formula for water is H_2O . This means there are two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom in each water molecule. Look at the chemical formulas below and write how many hydrogen atoms are in each one.



Space ships use hydrogen and oxygen as fuel, the byproduct of the explosion is water.



Methane is a byproduct of decomposing organic matter, it is used as a fuel at some landfills.



Glucose is the sugar plants use as food, and is produced through photosynthesis.



Ammonia is often used in fertilizers because of its nitrogen content, which is essential for most plants.



Caffeine is found in many plant leaves, it is a natural insecticide because it often kills insects when they ingest it.



Vitamin C is important for nearly all animals. Humans are one of only a few species that do not produce it and must get it from food with large amounts of the vitamin.



Baking soda is used in the body to neutralize some of the acids produced by the stomach.

