

# THE PERIODIC TABLE FOR BIOLOGISTS

I	II
1.01 1 H hydrogen	
6.94 3 Li	9.01 4 Be
22.99 11 Na sodium	24.31 12 Mg magnesium
39.10 19 K potassium	40.08 20 Ca calcium
85.47 37 Rb	87.62 38 Sr
132.91 55 Cs	137.33 56 Ba
223.02 73 Fr	226.03 74 Ra

The most commonly occurring elements in living organisms are:

C <sup>6</sup> carbon	H <sup>1</sup> hydrogen	O <sup>8</sup> oxygen	N <sup>7</sup> nitrogen
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Other common elements are shaded in green.

relative atomic mass      atomic number

1.01 1 H hydrogen
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element name

transition-metals									
44.96 21 Sc	47.90 22 Ti	50.94 23 V	52.00 24 Cr	54.94 25 Mn manganese	55.85 26 Fe iron	58.93 27 Co cobalt	58.71 28 Ni nickel	63.55 29 Cu copper	65.38 30 Zn zinc
88.91 39 Y	91.22 40 Zr	92.91 41 Nb	95.94 42 Mo	98.91 43 Tc	101.07 44 Ru	102.91 45 Rh	106.42 46 Pd	107.87 47 Ag	112.41 48 Cd
	178.49 72 Hf	180.95 73 Ta	183.85 74 W	186.21 75 Re	190.23 76 Os	192.22 77 Ir	195.09 78 Pt	196.97 79 Au	200.59 80 Hg

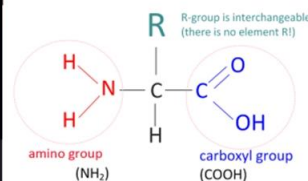
Lanthanide and actinide elements (and 104 - 109) have been left off.

III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	
	non-metals					4.00 2 He
10.81 5 B	12.01 6 C carbon	14.01 7 N nitrogen	16.00 8 O oxygen	19.00 9 F	20.18 10 Ne	
26.92 13 Al	28.09 14 Si	30.97 15 P phosphorous	32.06 16 S sulphur	35.45 17 Cl chlorine	39.95 18 Ar	
69.74 31 Ga	72.59 32 Ge	74.92 33 As	78.96 34 Se	79.91 35 Br	83.80 36 Kr	
114.82 49 In	118.69 50 Sn	121.75 51 Sb	127.60 52 Te	126.90 53 I iodine	131.30 54 Xe	
204.37 81 Tl	207.19 82 Pb	208.98 83 Bi	210.00 84 Po	209.99 85 At	222.02 86 Rn	

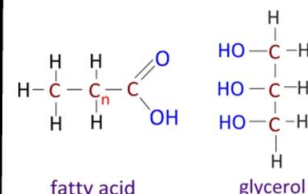
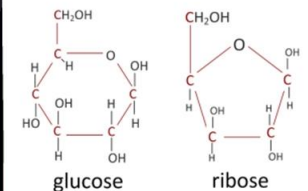
## Organic Compounds

contain **carbon** and are found in **living organisms**.

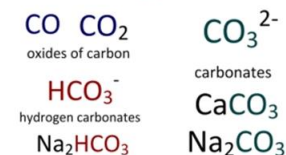
Some examples include:



amino acids



Some exceptions are:



Some elements are used universally in nature—though their uses can be diverse.

**N**<sup>7</sup>  
nitrogen

- Amino group of amino acids (the monomers of proteins)
- Also used in chlorophyll.

**S**<sup>16</sup>  
sulphur

- Source of energy for chemosynthetic bacteria in hydrothermal vents
- Found in the R-Group of cysteine, an amino acid, and can form disulfide bridges in protein folding.

**Na**<sup>11</sup>  
sodium

- Generate resting and action potentials in neurons.
- Used in maintaining osmosis. Sodium is the main cation (positive ion) in blood plasma, potassium in cytoplasm.
- Sodium-potassium pump is an example of active transport

**Ca**<sup>20</sup>  
calcium

- Extracellular component of bone matrix
- Forms exoskeletons
- Stimulates synaptic transmission between neurons
- Used in muscle contraction

**Fe**<sup>26</sup>  
iron

- Has a high affinity for oxygen
- Used in hemoglobin and myoglobin to carry oxygen in blood and muscles
- Used in ferredoxin in photosynthesis
- electron carrier in some bacteria

**P**<sup>15</sup>  
phosphorous

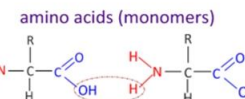
- Phospholipids make up the plasma membrane.
- Sugar-phosphate backbone of DNA structure.
- Bonds between phosphate ions store energy in ATP.

phosphate ions

Condensation reactions create bonds between organic molecules, making **polymers**.

Hydrolysis reactions break bonds.

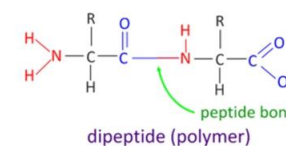
example:



hydrolysis      condensation

hydrolase used      polymerase used

water in      water out



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