Element of the Day – Iron

Symbol Fe

Origin of name and symbol: Latin Ferrum meaning “grey”

Uses of iron:

Many products containing steel such as cars, tools, appliances, chains and cooking utensils

 Used in buildings, bridges and towers

 Used in magnets

Element of the Day – lead

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| Symbol PbOrigin of name and symbol: Latin word for waterworks **plumbum** |  |

Uses of lead:* a shield against X-ray and gamma-ray radiation and is used in X-ray machines and nuclear reactors.
* the production of lead-acid storage batteries found in automobiles.
* Solder, an alloy that is nearly half lead and half [tin](http://education.jlab.org/itselemental/ele050.html), used to join electrical components, pipes and other metallic items.

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|  Element of the Day – Potassium Symbol KOrigin of name and symbol: from the English word "*potash*" (pot ashes) and the Arabic word "*qali*" meaning alkali. The origin of the symbol K comes from the Latin word "*kalium*". |
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Uses of potassium:* the alloy of potassium with sodium (NaK) is used as a heat-transfer medium in nuclear reactors.
* Used in fertilizers
* potassium nitrate, KNO3, and potassium chlorate, KClO3, are used in fireworks
* Bananas and potatoes are good sources of potassium.
* potassium is lost from the body in sweat and urine
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