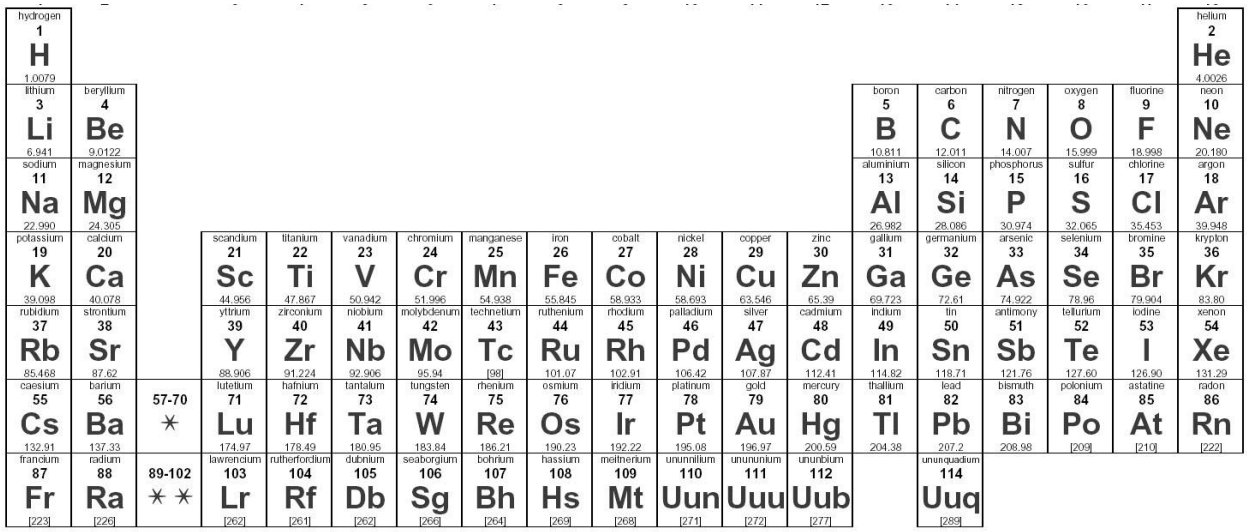
THE PERIODIC TABLE

Every high school student is familiar with the periodic table. It is nothing but the tabular arrangement of the chemical elements, arranged on the basis of their atomic numbers, electronic configuration and recurring chemical properties.

Here's a diagram of the standard periodic table:



As it can be seen from the table, there are two elements in the first row – Hydrogen (H) and Helium (He). In the second row, we have Lithium (Li), Beryllium (Be), Boron (B) and so on…

As it can be seen, the periodic table has over 100 elements arranged in multiple rows. However, most students do not have to memorize the full table. It is sufficient if they are well versed with the first 2 or 3 rows only.

In this chapter we will study a wonderful technique by which we can memorize all the elements in the first three rows of the periodic table with the help of a simple and funny story.

But before we begin, let us get acquainted with the elements in the first three rows. Here they are :

1) HYDROGEN
2) HELIUM
3) LITHIUM
4) BERYLLIUM
5) BORON
6) CARBON
7) NITROGEN
8) OXYGEN
9) FLOURINE
10) NEON
11) SODIUM
12) MAGNESIUM
13) ALUMINIUM
14) SILICON
15) PHOSPHOROUS
16) SULPHUR/SULFUR
17) CHLORINE
18) ARGON

As it can be seen, we have a total of 18 elements to remember. We will now form a story with a code word on every line. This code word will help us remember the element associated with it. But first, let us have a look at this small story.

'Once upon a time, there was a doctor named Mr. Hydrogen. One day he went on a hill and stayed in Hotel Lithium where he ate a lot of strawberries. Feeling bored, he removed his car and boosted the nitro speed. Unfortunately, he banged an ox walking on the road. The ox fell on the floor and hurt its knee. The doctor consoled him with a bottle of soda and gifted him a magnetic leg made of aluminium rods. The ox looked very silly. He remembered the days when he was prosperous; but was now destined to suffer. Even cloning was not possible. With a feeling of revenge, he shot the doctor with his R-GUN'

I strongly recommend that you read the story once again. Now let us analyze it in proper sequence with the name of the elements in the brackets. Here we go :

1) One upon a time, a doctor named Mr. Hydrogen (HYDROGEN)
2) Went on a Hill (HELIUM)
3) He stayed in Hotel Lithium (LITHIUM)
4) Where he ate straw-BERRY (BERYLLIUM)
5) But after some time he got BORED (BORON)
6) So he removed his CAR (CARBON)
7) And boosted the NITRO speed (NITROGEN)
8) But banged an OX walking on the road (OXYGEN)
9) The ox fell on the FLOOR (FLOURINE)
10) And hurt its KNEE (NEON)
11) The doctor gave it a bottle of SODA (SODIUM)
12) And gifted it a MAGNETIC knee (MAGNESIUM)
13) With ALUMINIUM rods (ALUMINIUM)
14) The ox looked very SILLY (SILICON)
15) He remembered the days when he was PROSPEROUS (PHOSPHOROUS)
16) But now he was destined to SUFFER (SULPHUR/SULFUR)
17) Even CLONING was not possible (CHLORINE)
18) With a feeling of revenge, he shot the doctor with his R-GUN (ARGON)

A quick glance at the technique and you will see the simplicity with which we memorized all the elements. We shall now take a small test to check how much you have remembered.

a) One day a doctor named Mr. H_____ (H_____N)
b) Went on a H_____ (H_____M)
c) He stayed in Hotel L_____ (L_____M)
d) Where he ate S_____ (B_____M)
e) But after some time he got B_____ (B_____N)
f) So he removed his C____ (C_____N)
g) And boosted the N_____ speed (N_____N)
h) But banged an O____ walking on the road (O_____N)
i) The ox fell on the F_____ (F_____E)
j) And hurt its K_____ (N_____N)
k) The doctor gave it a bottle of S_____ (S_____M)
l) And gifted it a M_____ knee (M_____M)
m) With A_____ rods (A_____M)
n) The ox looked very S_____ (S_____N)
o) He remembered the days when he was P_____ (P_____S)
p) But now he was destined to S_____ (S_____R)
q) Even C_____ was not possible (C_____E)
r) With a feeling of revenge, he shot the doctor with his R-____ (A_____N)

Three cheers to you if you have got all the elements correct! On the Internet you will find many different techniques of remembering the periodic table; but to be brutally honest I was not satisfied with any of them and hence decided to make my own technique. I sincerely hoped you have liked it.

In as much as I have discussed only the first three rows, you can go ahead and extend this story for the other rows too. Make sure your story is relevant as well as funny at the same time!

Good luck!!