

# LETTER BANKS FROM THE CHEMICAL ELEMENTS

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This article returns to one of our favorite themes, the names of the chemical elements. We started by taking the names of the chemical elements, running from hydrogen (atomic number 1) to meitnerium (atomic number 109). We included some variant spellings (e.g., sulphur, sulfur) and variant names (e.g., for elements with atomic numbers 104-109).

We reduced the name of each element to its corresponding letter bank, the set of different letters used in each element name. So, for example, bismuth simply reduces to the letter bank BHIMSTU, but manganese reduces to the letter bank AEGMNS, and so on. We then set ourselves the challenge of finding another word, name or term using the same letter bank.

Some of our words are simply transposals of the element names (e.g., rhodium to humidor), some words are considerably shorter than the chemical element name (e.g., unnilpentium to penultim), and some words are considerably longer than the chemical element name (e.g., arsenic to necessarinesses). We could have always preferred shorter words to longer words, or vice versa, but we decided to offer a mixture here.

Our list below contains 100 elements and corresponding finds. The list shows dictionary sources if other than Webster's Third. Some words taken from the Oxford English Dictionary can only be found in quotes.

actinium (uncinatum)	meitnerium (unintermittent)
aluminium (alumni)	mercury (Mercurey OED)
aluminum (alumni)	neon (one)
americium (uraemic)	neptunium (pinetum)
antimony (nonanonymity Web2)	nickel (nickellike Web2)
argon (groan)	nielsbohrium (nielsbohriums OED)
arsenic (necessarinesses)	nitrogen (genitor)
astatine (instantaneities)	osmium (omissus)
barium (Marrubium)	oxygen (xenogeny)
bismuth (Mitsubishi OED non-, 1974q)	palladium (lapidum OED keelful, 1478-9q)
boron (born)	phosphorus (sporophorous)
bromine (embrion)	platinum (multipliant OED)
cadmium (acidum Dorland's Medic Dict)	plutonium (multipoint)
caesium (music-cases Web2)	polonium (pollinium)
calcium (Climacium)	potassium (Postumia Century Dictionary Vol IX)
californium (microfaunal)	praseodymium (praseodidymiums)
carbon (barracoona)	protactinium (procommutation Web2)
cerium (circummure)	radium (mudiria)
cesium (semisuccesses Web2)	radon (adorn)
chlorine (clinochlore)	rhenium (murrhine)
chromium (mouchoir)	rhodium (humidor)
cobalt (coal boat Web2)	rubidium (dumb-bird)
columbium (coulombic)	ruthenium (three-minute [glass])
copper (recooper)	samarium (Marasmius)
curium (circum)	scandium (Muscadinia)

dysprosium (myriopodous Web2)	seaborgium (seaborgiums Concise Oxford, 9th edition)
einsteinium (minutenesses)	selenium (unseemlinesses)
erbium (imbrue)	silicon (collisions)
europium (prooemium)	silver (livers)
fermium (fumier)	sodium (isodomous)
fluorine (neurofil Web2)	strontium (nonintrusionisms)
francium (Carnificum OED flesh-hewer 1355q)	sulfur (furis)
gadolinium (aluminum gold (FunkWagnalls)	sulphur (surphuls Web2)
gallium (Galium)	tantalum (unautumnal Web2)
germanium (unremaining Web2)	technetium (Munichite OED)
gold (old-gold Web2)	tellurium (multimeter)
hahnium (inhuman)	terbium (imbrute)
helium (humlie)	thallium (thalamium)
hydrogen (greyhonde (OED yale, 1536q)	thorium (hortorium)
indium (undim Web2)	thulium (lithium)
iodine (Deinodon)	tin (nit)
iridium (mudir)	titanium (manitu)
iron (noir)	tungsten (ungets Web2)
lanthanum (Hultman Dict Univ Biography)	unniloctium (un-Miltoic Web2)
lawrencium (Crumlinwallinwer Dickens)	unnilpentium (penultim Web2)
lead (deleaded)	unnilquadium (quinaldinium)
lithium (thulium)	unnilseptium (penultims Web2)
lutetium (telium)	uranium (numina)
magnesium (unassumingnesses)	xenon (oxen)
manganese (gasmen)	zinc (zincic)

Crumlinwallinwer is the name of a character in Charles Dickens' *Bleak House*, hardly one of the regular references quoted in Word Ways.

Twenty-two element names failed to produce any words using the same letter banks: berkelium, beryllium, bohrium, dubnium, hafnium, holmium, joliotium, krypton, kurchatovium, mendel-evium, molybdenum, neodymium, niobium, nobelium, promethium, rutherfordium, unnilhexium, vanadium, wolfram, ytterbium, yttrium, zirconium.

There are some possibilities for plugging the gaps. Lumber-like (berkelium) can be found on various websites; the surname Belluomini (nobelium) can also be found on several websites, as can fowlfarm (wolfram). Improvements on these and filling the remaining gaps are left to the reader.