

# effective nuclear charge *(ef-fec-tive-nu-cle-ar-charge)*

## Definition

n. the net positive charge experienced by an electron in a multi-electron atom, accounting for the shielding effect of other electrons. it determines how strongly an electron is attracted to the nucleus.

## Example Sentence

The concept of **effective nuclear charge** helps explain the trends in atomic size and ionization energy across the periodic table.

## More Example Sentences

Understanding **effective nuclear charge** is crucial for predicting the behavior of electrons in atoms.

## Synonyms

net charge; nuclear attraction

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