

# mass number *(mass-num-ber)*

## Definition

n. the total number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus of an atom, which determines the atomic mass of an element.

## Example Sentence

The **mass number** of an atom is essential for understanding its isotopes.

## More Example Sentences

In chemistry class, we learned how to calculate the **mass number** from the periodic table.

## Synonyms

nuclear mass; atomic mass; nucleon number

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