

Chapter 2:

The Chemical Context of Life

Most Abundant Elements in Living Things (SPONCH)

- Sulfur
- Phosphorus
- Oxygen
- Nitrogen
- Carbon
- Hydrogen

Isotopes contain the same # protons but a different # neutrons.

Radioactive isotopes are unstable.

Covalent bonds share electrons while ionic bonds transfer them.

Compounds are molecules that contain at least two different elements.

Electronegativity - the pull between two atoms in a molecule

Nonpolar - equal pull, stronger bond

Polar - unequal pull, weaker bond