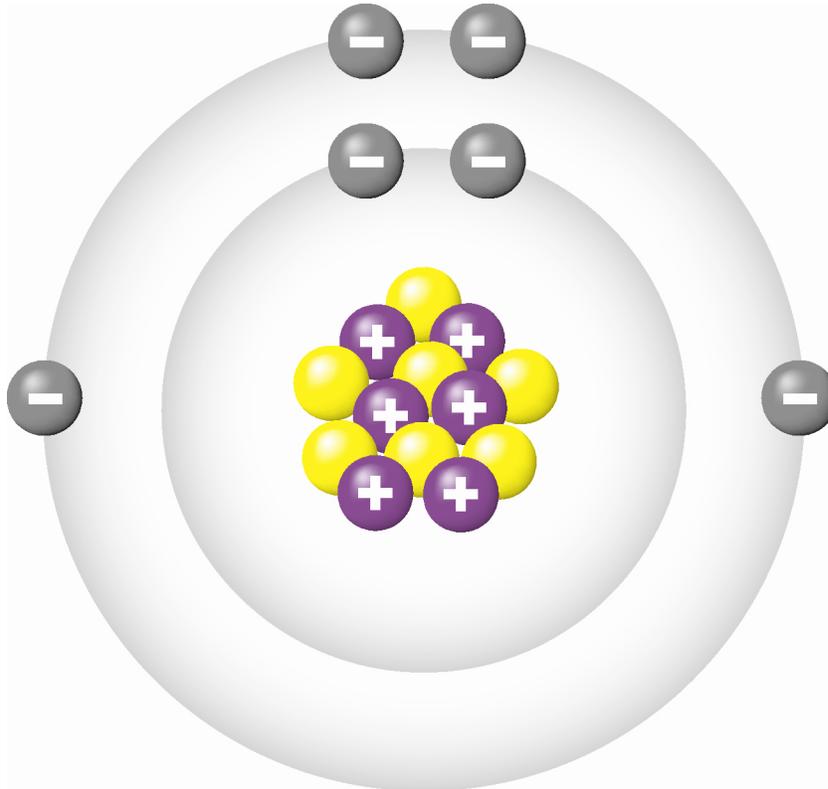


Goal • Learn more about atoms and how they affect static charge.

The charge that an object has depends on tiny particles that make up all matter. These tiny particles are called atoms. The following diagram is a simplified model of an atom. The centre of the atom is positively charged. It contains some particles that have positive charges and some particles that do not have charges. Outside the centre of the atom there are particles with negative charges.



An atom is uncharged if the number of positive charges is the same as the number of negative charges.

An atom has a positive charge if the number of positive charges is greater than the number of negative charges.

An atom has a negative charge if the number of negative charges is greater than the number of positive charges.

Sometimes negative charges move from one atom to another. When an atom loses negative charges, it becomes more positive. When an atom gains negative charges, it becomes more negative.