

# The Elements

Tom Lehrer

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The tune is 'I am the very model of a modern Major-General' from Gilbert & Sullivan's 'Pirates of Penzance'. The song can be found on the CD 'An Evening with Tom Lehrer'; web links tend to come and go and most of those I've used in the past have become defunct very quickly. You might find the tune [here](#).

There's antimony arsenic aluminum selenium,  
And hydrogen and oxygen and nitrogen and rhenium,  
And nickel neodymium neptunium germanium,  
And iron americium ruthenium uranium.  
Europium zirconium lutetium vanadium,  
And lanthanum and osmium and astatine and radium,  
And gold protactinium and indium and gallium,  
And iodine and thorium and thulium and thallium.

There's yttrium ytterbium actinium rubidium,  
And boron gadolinium niobium iridium,  
There's strontium and silicon and silver and samarium,  
And bismuth bromine lithium beryllium and barium.

There's holmium and helium and hafnium and erbium,  
And phosphorus and francium and fluorine and and terbium,  
And manganese and mercury, molybdenum magnesium,  
Dysprosium and scandium and cerium and cesium.  
And lead praseodymium and platinum plutonium  
Palladium promethium potassium polonium,  
And tantalum technetium titanium tellurium,  
And cadmium and calcium and chromium and curium.

There's sulfur, californium and fermium, berkelium,  
And also mendelevium einsteinium nobelium,  
And argon krypton neon radon xenon zinc and rhodium,  
And chlorine carbon cobalt copper tungsten tin and sodium.

These are the only ones of which the news has come to  
Harvard,  
And there may be many others but they haven't been discarded.

The elements in the song go as far as 102, Nobelium. Since it was written the elements up to 112 have been synthesised; details can be found in Mark Winter's [Web Elements](#) page.

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