Objectives

- Discuss the processes of radioactivity and radioactive decay
- Characterize alpha, beta, and gamma radiation in terms of composition and penetrating power

Key Terms

- radioisotopes
- radioactivity
- radiation

- radioactive decay
- alpha radiation
- alpha particles
- beta radiation
- beta particles
- gamma radiation

Part A Completion

Use this completion exercise to check your understanding of the concepts and terms that are introduced in this section. Each blank can be completed with a term, short phrase, or number.

Isotopes with unstable nuclei are and are called	1
The3 of radioisotopes decay to4 nuclei	2
plus5 The radiation may be alpha,6, or gamma.	3
radiation consists of alpha particles (positively charged	4
8 nuclei) that are easily stopped by a sheet of paper. Beta	5
radiation is composed of fast-moving particles, which are	6
9. Beta radiation is more penetrating than alpha radiation;	7
it is stopped by1011 radiation is electromagnetic	8
radiation similar to 12, but much more energetic. Gamma	9
radiation has no13 or charge. It is extremely penetrating.	10
	11
radiation but do not completely <u>16</u> it.	12
1 -	13.
	14.

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Part B True-False

Classify each of these statements as always true, AT; sometimes true, ST; or never true, NT.

- _____ 17. Beta radiation is emitted when a radioisotope decays.
 - _____ 18. Gamma radiation has a negative charge
 - _____ 19. Gamma radiation and X-radiation are high-energy electromagnetic radiation.
- **20.** $^{238}_{92}$ U + $^{0}_{-1}$ e $\rightarrow ^{239}_{92}$ U
- _____21. When a beta particle is emitted, the atomic number increases by 1, and the mass number stays the same.

Part C Matching

Match each description in Column B to the correct term in Column A.

Column B 22. radioisotopes a. the process in which an unstable nucleus loses energy by emitting radiation 23. radioactive decay b. isotopes that have unstable nuclei and undergo radioactive decay 24. gamma radiation c. high-energy radiation with no mass or charge d. fast moving electrons emitted from a radioactive source 26. beta radiation e. helium nuclei emitted from a radioactive source

Part D Questions and Problems

Answer the following in the space provided.

- 27. Write nuclear equations for these processes.
 - **a.** The alpha decay of $^{218}_{84}$ Po
 - **b.** The beta decay of $^{210}_{82}$ Pb