

Radioactivity

The spontaneous breaking up of unstable nuclei with the emission of one or more types of radiation.

Alpha particles

Helium nuclei - two protons and two neutrons.

Beta particles

High-energy electrons.

Gamma rays

High-energy electromagnetic radiation.

Radioisotope

A radioactive isotope of an element.

Transmutation

The changing of one element into another element.

Half-life

The time taken for half of the nuclei in any given sample to decay.