

Elements, Compounds and Mixtures

7th Grade

Three levels of 'what is this made of', and how to tell them apart.

The difference is whether the parts are chemically joined.

Type	Made of	Separated by	Example
Element	one kind of atom	cannot be separated	gold, oxygen
Compound	atoms chemically bonded	chemical reaction	water, salt
Mixture	substances just mixed	physical means	air, sea water

Water is a compound — you cannot filter the hydrogen out. Salt water is a mixture — you can evaporate it.