

An **isotope** is any variant of a chemical element that has the same number of protons but a different number of neutrons. → Example: Carbon-12 and Carbon-14 are both isotopes of carbon.

A radioactive isotope (also called a radioisotope) is a special kind of isotope that is unstable and decays over time, emitting radiation (like alpha, beta, or gamma rays).

In short: ☐ All radioactive isotopes are isotopes, But not all isotopes are radioactive.

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Last update: **2025/04/26 11:13**

