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## Competitive Exams: Matter, Element, Compound & Mixtures

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**Matter:** Anything that occupies space and has weight is called matter. In general matter exists in three states,

- Solids have definite volume, a definite shape and are rigid.
- Liquids have definite volume, but no definite shape and are non-rigid.
- Gases have neither definite shape, nor definite volume and are non-rigid. It is the simplest state and shows great uniformity in behavior.

**Elements:** An element is a substance which can neither be broken nor built from two or more simple substances by any physical or chemical method. Or in other words an element is a pure substance which contains only one kind of atom, e. g. , Fe (Iron) , Na (Sodium) , etc.

**Types of Elements:** (i) Metals, (ii) Non-metals, (iii) Metalloids

### Compounds

A compound is a pure substance which contains more than one kind of element or atom in fixed proportion by weight e. g. , NaCl (Sodium chloride) , SO<sub>2</sub> (Sulphur dioxide) , etc.

### Types of Compounds

- Organic compounds
- Inorganic compounds

The properties of a compound are completely different from those of its constituents.

### Mixtures

- A material containing two or more elements or compounds in any proportion is a mixture. It can be separated into its constituents, e. g. . air, milk, paints, cements, cements etc.

### Types of Mixtures

- Mixture can be either Homogeneous or Heterogeneous
- A mixture is said to be homogeneous if its composition is uniform throughout.
- A mixture is said to be heterogeneous if its composition is not uniform.
- The properties of a mixture are the properties of its constituents.
- A mixture with definite boiling point is known as pure mixture

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