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ar·se·nic  (är sə-nĭk)

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n.

1. Symbol As A highly poisonous metallic element having several allotropic forms of which the brittle, crystalline gray metallic form is the most common. The less stable yellow allotrope has a molecular structure, As₄. Arsenic and its compounds are used in insecticides, weed killers, semiconductor dopants, and various alloys. Atomic number 33; atomic weight 74.9216; valence 3, 5. Gray arsenic melts at 817°C (at 28 atm pressure), sublimates at 616°C, and has a specific gravity of 5.75. See [Periodic Table](#).

2. Arsenic trioxide.

adj. **ar·sen·ic** (är-sĕn ĭk)

Of or containing arsenic, especially with valence 5.

[Middle English *arsenik*, from Old French, from Latin *arsenicum*, from Greek *arsenikon*, yellow orpiment, alteration of Syriac *zarnĭkā*, from Middle Persian **zarnĭk*, from Old Iranian **zarna-*, golden; see **ghel-**² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

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