To help you with your homework remember these key points:

* The small number in the periodic table is called the atomic number. This is the number of protons. For example, oxygen has 8 protons, hydrogen has 1 protons and sulphur has 16 protons
* The number of protons = the number of electrons.

So if an atom has 6 protons, it has 6 electrons. If it has 13 protons, it has 13 electrons. If it has 20 protons, it has 20 electrons.

* The large number in the periodic table is the atomic mass.

The atom mass = the number of protons + the number of neutrons.

A simple way to work out the number of electrons is to take the small number away from the big one (take the atomic number away from the atomic mass).

So for oxygen, the number of neutrons = 16 – 8 = 8

For nitrogen, the number of neutrons = 14 – 7 = 7

For helium, the number of neutrons = 4 – 2 – 2

Please come and see Miss Murray before Monday if you need help.