

Uses of common metals

You need to know about aluminium, copper, and iron.

1. Match the **heads** to the correct **tails**, and write out the correct sentences:

heads



Aluminium is used for

Copper is used for

Iron is used for

tails



water pipes and electrical wires

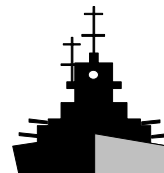
bridges, manhole covers and gates

aircraft and overhead electricity cables

2. Aluminium has these properties:

It is shiny, non-toxic (not poisonous), low density (light for its size) and does not corrode (rust).

- Why is aluminium a good metal to use for drinks cans?
- Why is aluminium a good metal to use as a reflector in car headlights?
- Why is aluminium a good metal to use for the superstructure (top decks) of warships?



3. Copper has these properties:

It is a good electrical conductor, a good heat conductor and does not corrode (rust).

- Why is copper a good metal to use for water pipes?
- Why is copper a good metal to use for pans?
- Why is copper a good metal to use for electrical wires?



4. Iron has these properties:

It is a hard, strong, cheap and it corrodes (rusts).

- Why is iron a good metal to use for bridges?
- Why is iron a poor metal to use for water pipes?
- Why are many things that are made of iron disposable?



5. Metals are often mixed with other elements to make **alloys**. Steel is a mixture of iron and carbon. Bronze is a mixture of copper and tin.

- Why are steel and bronze called alloys?
- Cupronickel can be used to make coins.
What two metals do you think are in cupronickel?
What properties should cupronickel have so that it makes good coins?
- Duralumin is an alloy of aluminium and some other metals. It is used to make aircraft parts.
What properties should Duralumin have so that it makes good aircraft parts?

