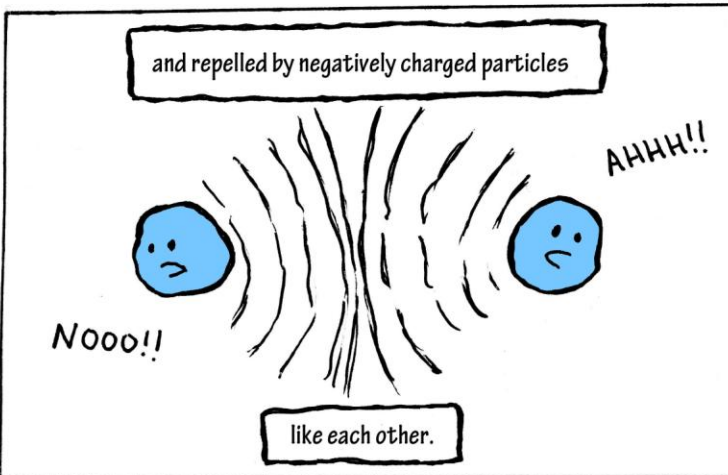


Electrons (like me!) have a negative charge.

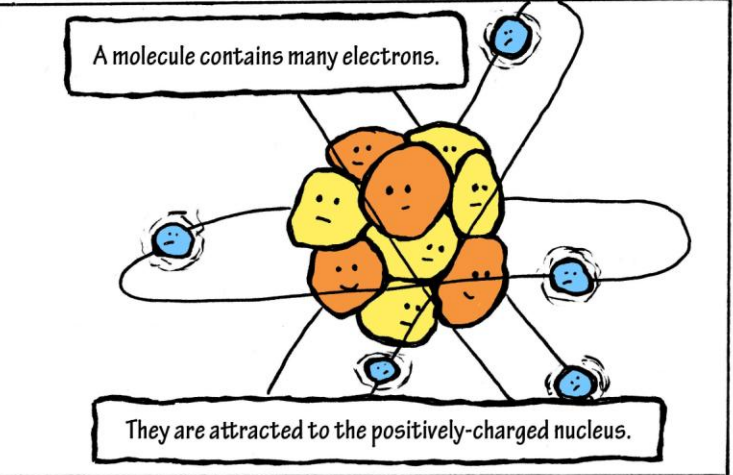
We're attracted to positively charged particles

like protons...



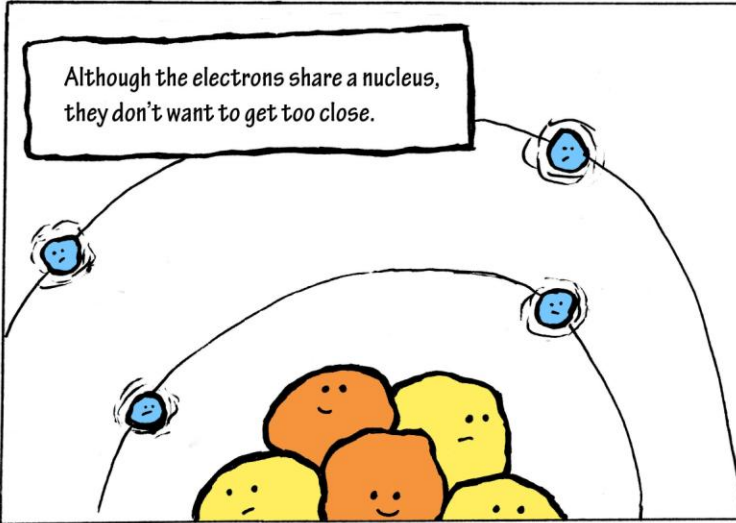
and repelled by negatively charged particles

like each other.

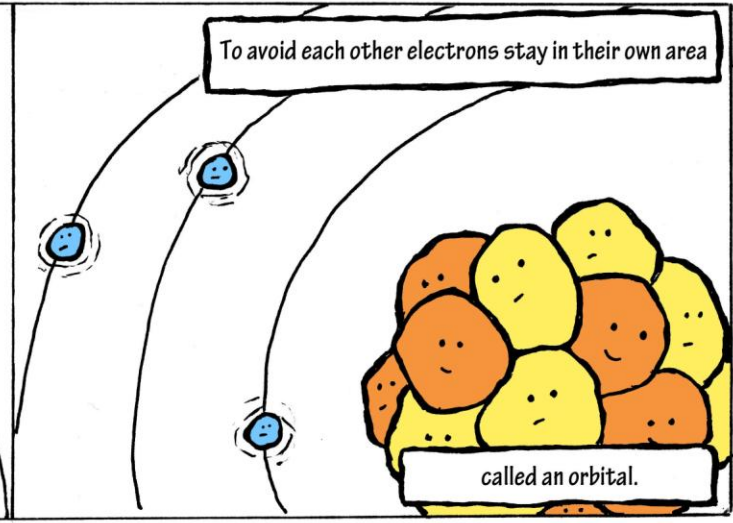


A molecule contains many electrons.

They are attracted to the positively-charged nucleus.



Although the electrons share a nucleus, they don't want to get too close.



To avoid each other electrons stay in their own area

called an orbital.

WARNING!!

Electrons do not actually orbit around a nucleus like the Moon around the Earth. They are mysteriously spread over the entire orbital all at once. This is because electrons act like compact particles and expanded waves simultaneously.

This is a strange phenomenon of quantum mechanics.

