

Technical Challenge Solution

The word “element” refers to the chemical elements of the periodic table. “Look closely” suggests that something is obscured in each step of the recipe.

Each step of the recipe includes one hidden chemical element:

Make dough for scones. (I know these terse instructions have earned me the reputation of “bad **cop**.” **Per**sonally, I think I’m the nice judge!)

Don’t forget to preheat your oven, **Einstein!** (I, **um**, have faith in you, I swear.)

Next, get ready to mix some corn into your dough. Use a sharp knife to slice corn off the **cob**. **Alt**ernatively, use a corn stripper tool.

Mold dough on a wooden slab, **or on** the countertop if you prefer.

Shape dough until **boxy**. **Gent**ly form into proper shape.

One onion, diced, should be plenty to sprinkle on top.

I was just about to remind you to **stir on**ly 1/2 cup of corn into your batter. Oops, too late!

Scones in the oven are like precious **cargo**. **Ne**ver stop watching! Cues that they’re ready to come out include a light brown color and cracked top.

For dipping sauce: Never fear extra spice! Add enough chilis so lips get bee-**stung**. **Sten**ch of garlic should waft through the tent -- don't skimp on it!

For garnish: Place walnuts in food processor and pulse until co**arse**. **Nic**ely ground (not too fine) is the ideal texture.

Hidden elements are (in order): Copper, Einsteinium, Cobalt, Boron, Oxygen, Neon, Iron, Argon, Tungsten, and Arsenic.

“Shortening” hints that solvers must translate these hidden chemical elements into their chemical symbols. The chemical symbols are (in order): Cu, Es, Co, B, O, Ne, Fe, Ar, W, As. These letters need to be paired to form five words: Cues, Cob, One, Fear, and Was.

These words are “familiar” because they appear in some steps of the recipe.

“Counting” means solvers need to count the number of words into each step. “Cob” appears 20 words into step 3, “one” appears 1 word into step 6, “was” appears 2 words into step 7, “cues” appears 12 words into step 8, and “fear” appears 5 words into step 9.

Solvers must translate the word positions into letters. Place them in order, according to where they appear in the recipe. 20 is T, 1 is A, 2 is B, 12 is L, and 5 is E.

The solution to the puzzle is **TABLE** (something bakers need at the end of the day -- it’s also a reference to the periodic table).