The periodic table

The periods (rows) show the shells; the columns show the outer electrons.

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Lifted out of rows 6 and 7 so the table is not too wide.

Colour = type of element: Alkali metal · Alkaline earth metal · Transition metal · Post-transition metal · Metalloid · Reactive nonmetal · Halogen · Noble gas · Lanthanide · Actinide

Columns 3–12 (transition metals): the outer shell keeps 1 or 2 electrons while the shell beneath fills up. Helium has only 2 electrons, but its one shell is full: so it stands with the noble gases.