











## **12.2 The quantum theory**

 Quantum theory says that when things get very small, like the size of an atom, matter and energy do not obey Newton's laws or other laws of classical physics.









## 12.2 The uncertainty principle

An electron is moving



To see the electron you must bounce a photon of light off it



When you receive the photon you know where the electron *was*, but the photon disturbed it, so you don't know its speed and direction any more







## **12.2 Rules for energy levels**

Inside an atom, electrons always obey these rules:

- 1. The energy of an electron must match one of the energy levels in the atom.
- 2. Each energy level can hold only a certain number of electrons, and no more.
- 3. As electrons are added to an atom, they settle into the lowest unfilled energy level.









