Group 1 - The Alkali Metals

The Group 1 Elements are shiny, soft, and highly reactive metals, none of which occur naturally as free elements.

**Melting Points**

- Lithium (Li): 180.5°C
- Sodium (Na): 97.7°C
- Potassium (K): 63.4°C
- Rubidium (Rb): 39.5°C
- Caesium (Cs): 27.0°C
- Francium (Fr): 27.0°C

**Uses of the Alkali Metals**

- Lithium: Anti-depressants, Batteries
- Sodium: Street lamps, Table salt, Soaps
- Potassium: Fertilisers
- Rubidium & Caesium: Atomic clocks
- Francium: Radioactive

The reactivity of the Group 1 metals increases down the group as the outer electron gets further from the nucleus and becomes easier to remove.