ConcepTest on Atomic Structure:

Iodine-131, having the nuclear symbol of ${}^{131}_{53}$ I, is one of the most abundant radioactive isotope found in nuclear fallout. It is also the isotope used to diagnose and treat Grave's disease. How many neutrons does it contain?

1. 53 2. 78 3. 131 4. 184

Correct Answer: 2. 78

Comment to Instructor: Choice 1 indicates they mistook the atomic number to represent the number of neutrons. Choice 3 indicates they mistook the mass number to represent the number of neutrons. Choice 4 indicates they added the atomic number and the mass number.