

# WRITING CHEMICAL FORMULAS & NAMING COMPOUNDS

## PART A: THE BUILDING BLOCKS

Chemical formulas provide 2 pieces of information:

- elements that make up the compound.
- number of atoms of each element that are present in a compound.

### COVALENT COMPOUNDS

- chemical formula represents how many of each type of atom are in each molecule.

- Eg.  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6$  ;  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$

### IONIC COMPOUNDS

- chemical formula represents the ratio in which ions are present in the compound.

- Eg.  $\text{MgO}$  ;  $\text{Al}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$

### Using Valence Numbers to Describe Bonding Capacity

As a general rule, based on the octet rule, if 2 atoms form...

- an ionic bond, valence indicates charges on the ions formed.
- a covalent bond, valence indicates how many electrons each atom contributes to the covalent bond.

Eg. Sodium is a Group 1A element and has 1 electron in its valence shell. Na has a valence of 1+ and forms an ionic bond with a non-metal.

Eg. Sulfur is a Group VIA element and has 6 valence electrons. Its bonding capacity is 6, which means that it will either form an ionic charge of 2- with a metal, or it will share 2 of its valence electrons in a covalent bond with a non-metal.

## METALS WITH SINGLE & MULTI-VALENCES -- (the cation)

- **Group A** elements that form cations have valences that correspond with their group number, without exception. These metals have a **single** valence. For instance, Calcium is in group IIA, so its valence is 2+.
- **Group B** elements: many elements belonging to transition metals or post-transition metals form cations with different valences. For instance, Iron is a transition metal and it can form 2 different valences, 2+ and 3+. Elements with **multi-valences** can form compounds with different chemical formulas having different physical and chemical properties.
- when naming an ionic compound containing a multi-valence metal, the valence of the metal must be stated.
- there are 2 systems of naming compounds with multi-valences: the Stock System & the Classical System.

### STOCK SYSTEM

- naming a compound with a metal having more than one valence, include the valence in parentheses, written in **Roman numerals**.

Eg.  $\text{Fe}^{2+}$  is written as iron (II)

$\text{Cu}^{1+}$  is written as copper (I)

$\text{Fe}^{3+}$  is written as iron (III)

$\text{Cu}^{2+}$  is written as copper (II)

### CLASSICAL SYSTEM

- pre-dates the Stock System
- uses the Latin name of the metal
- metal with **smaller valence ends in -ous**
- metal with **larger valence ends in -ic**

Common Type II Cations		
Ion	Stock System	Traditional System
$\text{Fe}^{3+}$	iron (III)	ferric
$\text{Fe}^{2+}$	iron (II)	ferrous
$\text{Cu}^{2+}$	copper (II)	cupric
$\text{Cu}^{1+}$	copper (I)	cuprous
$\text{Co}^{3+}$	cobalt (III)	cobaltic
$\text{Co}^{2+}$	cobalt (II)	cobaltous
$\text{Sn}^{4+}$	tin (IV)	stannic
$\text{Sn}^{2+}$	tin (II)	stannous
$\text{Pb}^{4+}$	lead (IV)	plumbic
$\text{Pb}^{2+}$	lead (II)	plumbous
$\text{Hg}^{2+}$	mercury (II)	mercuric
$\text{Hg}_2^{2+}$	mercury (I)	mercurous

\*Mercury (I) ions are always bound together in pairs to form  $\text{Hg}_2^{2+}$

## **ELECTRONEGATIVITY & ORDER -- (what about the anion?)**

- generally, the element with the lower electronegativity (EN) is written first, followed by the element with the greater EN.
- ionic compounds -- metals have lower EN than non-metals.

METAL + NON-METAL

- covalent compounds -- order is determined by consulting the periodic table.

NON-METAL + NON-METAL  
(lower EN)      (higher EN)

### **GIVEN THE NAME or WHEN NAMING the compound...**

- in most cases, there are 2 parts to the name
- ionic compounds: name of cation is followed by name of anion
- covalent compounds: name of 2 non-metals

Specifically in terms of **ionic** compounds,

FIRST PART	SECOND PART
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• name of element in periodic table</li><li>• if metal is multivalent, include Roman numeral valence or use Classical system</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• if monoatomic (1 type of atom) ending of name changes to -ide<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>* there are exceptions</li></ul></li><li>• if polyatomic (more than 1 type of atom, then consult next page)</li></ul>

## POLYATOMIC IONS



phosphate ion

= group of 1 P and 4 O's

with an overall charge of 3-

- a group of atoms that contain a single charge.
- atoms in the ion are covalently bonded to one another
- behave as a single unit and treated as a single ion
- often remain unchanged in simple chemical reactions due to strong bonds holding component atoms together

Valence = -1			
Ion	Name	Ion	Name
$\text{CN}^-$	cyanide	$\text{H}_2\text{PO}_3^-$	dihydrogen phosphite
$\text{CH}_3\text{COO}^-$	acetate	$\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^-$	dihydrogen phosphate
$\text{ClO}^-$	hypochlorite	$\text{MnO}_4^-$	permanganate
$\text{ClO}_2^-$	chlorite	$\text{NO}_2^-$	nitrite
$\text{ClO}_3^-$	chlorate	$\text{NO}_3^-$	nitrate
$\text{ClO}_4^-$	perchlorate	$\text{OCN}^-$	cyanate
$\text{HCO}_3^-$	hydrogen carbonate	$\text{HS}^-$	hydrogen sulfide
$\text{HSO}_3^-$	hydrogen sulfite	$\text{OH}^-$	hydroxide
$\text{HSO}_4^-$	hydrogen sulfate	$\text{SCN}^-$	thiocyanate

Valence = -2			
Ion	Name	Ion	Name
$\text{CO}_3^{2-}$	carbonate	$\text{O}_2^{2-}$	peroxide
$\text{C}_2\text{O}_4^{2-}$	oxalate	$\text{SiO}_3^{2-}$	silicate
$\text{CrO}_4^{2-}$	chromate	$\text{SO}_3^{2-}$	sulfite
$\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7^{2-}$	dichromate	$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$	sulfate
$\text{HPO}_3^{2-}$	hydrogen phosphite	$\text{S}_2\text{O}_3^{2-}$	thiosulfate
$\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$	hydrogen phosphate		

Valence = -3			
Ion	Name	Ion	Name
$\text{AsO}_3^{3-}$	arsenite	$\text{PO}_3^{3-}$	phosphite
$\text{AsO}_4^{3-}$	arsenate	$\text{PO}_4^{3-}$	phosphate

## COMPOUNDS WITH POLYATOMIC IONS

- Use patterns such as T41 and T43

**PATTERNS** in the names of polyatomic ions:

- know the base ions ending in **-ate**, then the other ions follow...

# of O-atoms prefix and suffix			
$x - 2$	hypo	_____	ite
$x - 1$		_____	ite
<b>x</b>		_____	<b>ate</b>
$x + 1$	per	_____	ate

Eg. If  $\text{BrO}_3^{1-}$  is the bromate ion, then...

$\text{BrO}^{1-}$  is hypobromite ion

$\text{BrO}_2^{1-}$  is bromite ion

**$\text{BrO}_3^{1-}$  is bromate ion**

$\text{BrO}_4^{1-}$  is perbromate ion

Eg. If  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$  is the hydrogen phosphate ion, then...

$\text{HPO}_2^{2-}$  is hydrogen hypophosphite ion

$\text{HPO}_3^{2-}$  is hydrogen phosphite ion

**$\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$  is hydrogen phosphate ion**

$\text{HPO}_5^{2-}$  is hydrogen perphosphate ion

Notice the **valence** of the polyatomic ions is the same; as the number of O-atoms changes, the prefix and suffix changes. These changes are consistent with all groups of polyatomic ions. Not all polyatomic ions contain the 4 names.

## **PART B: WRITING CHEMICAL FORMULAS**

### **1. IONIC COMPOUNDS**

- Write symbols for the ions. Place brackets around polyatomic ions that are present. *Remember: **metal + non-metal**.*
- Write the valence above each ion or polyatomic ion.
- Criss-cross the valences to indicate the number of each ion as a subscript.
- Tidy up the formula. Reduce the NEW subscripts (from the criss-cross) to lowest terms. Remove "1"s on monoatomic ions and brackets only when polyatomic ion has subscript of "1".

**Eg.** Write the formula for ammonium carbonate.

1.  $(\text{NH}_4)^{1+} (\text{CO}_3)^{2-}$
2.  $(\text{NH}_4)_2 (\text{CO}_3)_1$
3.  $(\text{NH}_4)_2(\text{CO}_3)_1$
4.  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{CO}_3$  ammonium carbonate

**Exercise:** Write the chemical formula for each compound.

1. sodium phosphate
2. magnesium chlorate
3. copper (II) nitride
4. iron (III) permanganate
5. stannic chlorite
6. aurous sulfide

### **2. COVALENT COMPOUNDS**

- add prefix to each non-metal to indicate the number of atoms of each element in one molecule of compound
- if prefix is left out on the first element, there is only 1 atom of the element

**Exercise:** Write the chemical formula for each compound.

1. dinitrogen pentoxide
2. nitrogen trichloride

## PART C: NAMING CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS

### 1. IONIC COMPOUNDS

#### **A) METAL (group A) + (NON-METAL or polyatomic ion)**

- **BINARY** ionic compounds -- METAL + NON-METAL

METAL CATION

-- use name of metal from periodic table

NON-METAL ANION

-- change ending to **-ide**

Eg. sulfur	→	sulf <u>ide</u>
phosphorus	→	phosph <u>ide</u>
oxygen	→	oxid <u>e</u>

- **TERNARY** ionic compounds -- METAL + polyatomic ion  
-- consists of 3 or more types of elements

METAL CATION

-- use name of metal from periodic table

POLYATOMIC ANION

-- see Page 98 Table 3.4 and patterns in naming these ions

-- most ions end in -ate or -ite, with few exceptions

Eg. Name  $K_3N$   
Potassium has valence 1+  
Therefore, potassium nitride.

Eg. Name  $Ca_3(PO_3)_2$   
Calcium has valence of 2+,  
Therefore, calcium phosphite.

Name the following compounds.

1.  $Na_2S$

2.  $Al_2O_3$

3.  $Ba(ClO_3)_2$

4.  $K_3HPO_3$

5.  $KCH_3CO_2$

6.  $(NH_4)_2SO_3$

## **B) METAL (group B) + (NON-METAL or polyatomic ion)**

- rules of naming are similar to those in part A (group A metals)

GROUP B metals have multi-valences; therefore, there is a required step to determine the valence of the group B metal.

- use TOTAL negative charges to determine the TOTAL positive charges
- $(\text{TOTAL Positive Charge}) + (\text{TOTAL Negative Charge}) = 0$
- to determine the appropriate **valence** on the GROUP B metal, divide the TOTAL positive charges by the number of atoms making up the cation.

Eg. Name  $\text{Au}_3\text{P}$

Gold has 2 valences -- 1+, 3+

Phosphorus has valence 3-

TOTAL negative charge = 3-

TOTAL positive charge = 3+

valence of Au = 1+

(3 atoms of Au share the total 3+)

NAME: gold (I) phosphide  
aurous phosphide

Eg. Name  $\text{Sn}(\text{SO}_4)_2$

Tin has 2 valences -- 2+, 4+

Sulfate ion has valence 2-

TOTAL negative charge = 4-

TOTAL positive charge = 4+

valence of Sn = 4+

(1 atom of Sn accepts total charge)

NAME: tin (IV) sulfate  
stannic sulfate

Name the following compounds.

1.  $\text{Cr}_2\text{Se}_3$

2.  $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_2)_2$

3.  $\text{MnO}_2$

4.  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{HPO}_3)_3$

5.  $\text{Cu}_2\text{CO}_3$

6.  $\text{Re}(\text{OH})_4$



## 2. COVALENT COMPOUNDS

- prefix is added to each non-metal - indicates the number of atoms of each element in one molecule of compound
- mono- is left out if there is only 1 atom of the first element
- if a prefix is added AND -a or -o is followed by an "o", drop the -a / -o.

Eg.  $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$

$\text{H}_2\text{O}$

$\text{CBr}_4$

$\text{OCl}_2$

## PRACTICE:

1. State the formula of each of the following ionic compounds. Watch out! There is a mix of binary compounds and polyatomic compounds. Do you remember how to tell the difference?

eg. sodium nitrite  $\text{NaNO}_2$

eg. sodium nitride  $\text{Na}_3\text{N}$

(a) calcium sulfate \_\_\_\_\_

(b) sodium sulfide \_\_\_\_\_

(c) lead (II) phosphate \_\_\_\_\_

(d) aluminum chloride \_\_\_\_\_

(e) mercury (I) nitrate \_\_\_\_\_

(f) lithium nitride \_\_\_\_\_

(g) copper (II) phosphide \_\_\_\_\_

(h) magnesium oxide \_\_\_\_\_

(i) tin (IV) phosphate \_\_\_\_\_

(j) potassium dichromate \_\_\_\_\_

(o) ammonium sulphate \_\_\_\_\_

(p) potassium sulfate \_\_\_\_\_

(q) sodium cyanide \_\_\_\_\_

(r) lead (II) chromate \_\_\_\_\_

(s) iron (III) hydroxide \_\_\_\_\_

(t) ammonium nitrate \_\_\_\_\_

(u) sodium chlorate \_\_\_\_\_

(v) ammonium phosphate \_\_\_\_\_

(w) zinc perchlorate \_\_\_\_\_

(x) iron (II) sulfite \_\_\_\_\_

(y) magnesium hypochlorite \_\_\_\_\_

(z) ammonium sulfate \_\_\_\_\_

(A) barium acetate \_\_\_\_\_

(B) sodium dichromate \_\_\_\_\_

(C) tin (IV) nitrate \_\_\_\_\_

(D) potassium permanganate \_\_\_\_\_

(E) sodium perchlorate \_\_\_\_\_

(F) silver sulfide \_\_\_\_\_

(G) tin (II) hypochlorite \_\_\_\_\_

(H) iron (III) perchlorate \_\_\_\_\_

2. Write the formula for each of the following:

(a) oxygen difluoride \_\_\_\_\_

(b) dinitrogen tetroxide \_\_\_\_\_

(c) silicon dioxide \_\_\_\_\_

(d) silicon tetrafluoride \_\_\_\_\_

(e) diiodine pentoxide \_\_\_\_\_

(f) dihydrogen monoxide \_\_\_\_\_

(g) phosphorus trichloride \_\_\_\_\_

3. Name the following compounds. Use both the Stock and classical method if possible.

eg.  $\text{Fe}_2(\text{Cr}_2\text{O}_7)_3$  iron (III) dichromate *or* ferric dichromate

- |   |       |                                  |       |
|---|-------|----------------------------------|-------|
| (a) $\text{NaNO}_3$                       | _____ | (b) $\text{Ca}(\text{NO}_2)_2$   | _____ |
| (c) $\text{NH}_4\text{Br}$                | _____ | (d) $\text{Rb}_2\text{SO}_4$     | _____ |
| (e) $\text{CaSO}_4$                       | _____ | (f) $\text{Pb}(\text{NO}_3)_2$   | _____ |
| (g) $\text{Cu}(\text{CH}_3\text{CO}_2)_2$ | _____ | (h) $\text{Na}_3\text{PO}_4$     | _____ |
| (i) $\text{Al}(\text{OH})_3$              | _____ | (j) $\text{ZnSO}_3$              | _____ |
| (k) $\text{NH}_4\text{ClO}_4$             | _____ | (l) $\text{LiClO}$               | _____ |
| (m) $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_3)_2$            | _____ | (n) $\text{Mg}(\text{NO}_2)_2$   | _____ |
| (o) $\text{Li}_2\text{CO}_3$              | _____ | (p) $\text{Fe}_2(\text{SO}_4)_3$ | _____ |
| (q) $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{S}$             | _____ | (r) $\text{Sn}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$ | _____ |

4. Write an IUPAC name for each of the following compounds:

- |                     |       |                             |       |
|---------------------|-------|-----------------------------|-------|
| (a) $\text{CO}_2$   | _____ | (b) $\text{Cl}_2\text{O}_7$ | _____ |
| (c) $\text{SO}_2$   | _____ | (d) $\text{P}_2\text{O}_5$  | _____ |
| (e) $\text{NO}$     | _____ | (f) $\text{SCl}_2$          | _____ |
| (g) $\text{PCl}_3$  | _____ | (h) $\text{CF}_4$           | _____ |
| (i) $\text{SbCl}_3$ | _____ | (j) $\text{CBr}_4$          | _____ |