

Chemistry 121 – Names and Formulas

1. Names + spellings + symbols for these elements:

non-metals	main group metals + U		transition metals		
hydrogen	H	lithium	Li	scandium	Sc
helium	He	sodium	Na	titanium	Ti
carbon	C	potassium	K	vanadium	V
nitrogen	N	rubidium	Rb	chromium	Cr
oxygen	O	cesium	Cs	manganese	Mn
fluorine	F			iron	Fe
neon	Ne	beryllium	Be	cobalt	Co
		magnesium	Mg	nickel	Ni
phosphorus	P	calcium	Ca	copper	Cu
sulfur	S	strontium	Sr	zinc	Zn
chlorine	Cl	barium	Ba	palladium	Pd
argon	Ar			silver	Ag
				cadmium	Cd
selenium	Se	aluminum	Al	tungsten	W
bromine	Br	gallium	Ga	osmium	Os
krypton	Kr	bismuth	Bi	platinum	Pt
				gold	Au
iodine	I			mercury	Hg
xenon	Xe			lead	Pb
				tin	Sn
radon	Rn	uranium	U		

metalloids (main group only)

boron	B			
	silicon	Si		
	germanium	Ge	arsenic	As
			antimony	Sb
			tellurium	Te

3. Names of metallic cations with multiple charge possibilities:

Metal ions with more than one possible charge are named by explicitly indicating the charge—via a Roman numeral in parentheses. Some examples are listed here. You need to be able to identify any metal ion for metals listed in number 1, above, for example...in AuCl_3 you would identify the gold(III) ion, Au^{3+} .

Cu^+	copper(I) ion	Fe^{2+}	iron(II) ion
Cu^{2+}	copper(II) ion	Fe^{3+}	iron(III) ion

You need to be able to go from formula to name or from name to formula.

2. Names and formulas/charges of positive ions (cations) with only one possible charge:

Note that the word “ion” is part of each name, because these names without that word means “the neutral metal.”

a. Monatomic Cations: Name→Formula or Formula→Name

Main group species (first two columns and last six columns of periodic table):

always 1+	always 2+	always 3+			
H^+	hydrogen ion (proton)				
Li^+	lithium ion	Be^{2+}	beryllium ion		
Na^+	sodium ion	Mg^{2+}	magnesium ion	Al^{3+}	aluminum ion
K^+	potassium ion	Ca^{2+}	calcium ion		
Rb^+	rubidium ion	Sr^{2+}	strontium ion		
Cs^+	cesium ion	Ba^{2+}	barium ion		

Transition metal cations (middle 10 columns of periodic table):

Ag^+	silver ion	Zn^{2+}	zinc ion
		Cd^{2+}	cadmium ion

Other transition metals have multiple possibilities for charges, see #3, below.

b. Polyatomic Cations:

H_3O^+	hydronium ion (often abbreviated as H^+)
NH_4^+	ammonium ion
Hg_2^{2+}	mercury(I) ion (it's a <i>dimer</i> of Hg^+ , two Hg^+ always couple together!)

Hg_2^{2+}	mercury(I) ion
Hg^{2+}	mercury(II) ion

Note that the mercury(I) ion has two Hg together, making it 2+, not 1+.

4. Names and formulas of common anions (negatively charged ions):

You need to be able to translate from Name→Formula and from Formula→Name
Note that formula includes charge!

a. Monatomic Anions

1- charge	2- charge	3- charge
Group 17:	Group 16:	Group 15:
H ⁻ hydride		
F ⁻ fluoride	O ²⁻ oxide	N ³⁻ nitride
Cl ⁻ chloride	S ²⁻ sulfide	P ³⁻ phosphide
Br ⁻ bromide		
I ⁻ iodide		

b. Polyatomic Anions

1- charge	2- charge	3- charge
OH ⁻ hydroxide	O ₂ ²⁻ peroxide	PO ₄ ³⁻ phosphate
CN ⁻ cyanide	SO ₃ ²⁻ sulfite	
OCN ⁻ cyanate	SO ₄ ²⁻ sulfate	
SCN ⁻ thiocyanate	S ₂ O ₃ ²⁻ thiosulfate	
NO ₂ ⁻ nitrite	CrO ₄ ²⁻ chromate	
NO ₃ ⁻ nitrate	Cr ₂ O ₇ ²⁻ dichromate	
MnO ₄ ⁻ permanganate	CO ₃ ²⁻ carbonate	
	C ₂ O ₄ ²⁻ oxalate	
ClO ⁻ hypochlorite		
ClO ₂ ⁻ chlorite	HCO ₃ ⁻ hydrogen carbonate or bicarbonate	
ClO ₃ ⁻ chlorate	HSO ₄ ⁻ hydrogen sulfate	
ClO ₄ ⁻ perchlorate		

CH₃CO₂⁻ or C₂H₃O₂⁻ acetate (first formula shows the connectivity better)

5. Traditional names and formulas of five molecules:

H ₂ O	water
CH ₄	methane
N ₂ O	nitrous oxide
O ₃	ozone
C ₆₀	buckminsterfullerene

Note that all of these atoms are non-metals.

6. Names and formulas and strengths of common acids and bases:

Memorize all names, formulas and strengths (strong or weak) of the acids and bases listed here:

Strong Acids

HCl	hydrochloric acid
HBr	hydrobromic acid
HI	hydroiodic acid
HNO ₃	nitric acid
HClO ₄	perchloric acid
H ₂ SO ₄	sulfuric acid

Weak Acids

HF	hydrofluoric acid
CH ₃ COOH	acetic acid
H ₃ PO ₄	phosphoric acid

Strong Bases

NaOH	sodium hydroxide
KOH	potassium hydroxide
Ba(OH) ₂	barium hydroxide

Weak Base

NH ₃	ammonia ¹⁰
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