

Naming Compounds & Counting Atoms

A Lesson in Names & Numbers

Try This!

Determine the chemical formulas for the following:



Calcium + Chlorine		Silver + Hydroxide		Copper (II) + Nitrogen	
Write Ions Here	Write Formula Here	Write Ions Here	Write Formula Here	Write Ions Here	Write Formula Here
Ca ²⁺	CaCl ₂	Ag ⁺	AgOH	Cu ²⁺	Cu ₃ N ₂
Cl ⁻		OH ⁻		N ³⁻	

What is in a Name?

Naming Metals (with one ion charge)

- The name of the metal ion is written first
- The name is written in lowercase and spelled exactly the same as the element name
ex. Al is aluminium

Naming Non-Metal Ions

- The name of the non-metal ion is written second, after the metal.
- The name is written almost the same the element name except the ending is changed to -ide to distinguish from Polyatomic Ions
ex. Cl is chloride and O is oxide

Naming Polyatomic Ions

- Positive polyatomic ions are written first. There is only one, which is NH₄⁺.
- Negative polyatomic ions are written second and the name of the ion is not changed.
ex. SO₄²⁻ is sulfate

Naming Multivalent Metals

- If the metal is multivalent, like Iron (Fe²⁺ and Fe³⁺), the ion charge of the metal must be in the name. This charge is indicated by Roman numerals.
ex. Cu²⁺ is copper (II) and read as "copper two"

POSITIVE (usually metal) ION FIRST	NEGATIVE (non-metal) ION SECOND

Put it into PRactice

	IONS	NAME OF COMPOUND	FORMULA
1	K^{+1} Cl^{-1}	potassium chloride	KCl
2	Na^{+1} N^{-3}	sodium nitride	Na_3N
3	Ca^{2+} OH^{-}	calcium hydroxide	$Ca(OH)_2$
4	Al^{3+} OH^{-}	aluminum hydroxide	$Al(OH)_3$
5	K^{+} N^{3-}	potassium nitride	K_3N
6	Ca^{2+} O^{2-}	calcium oxide	CaO
7	Na^{+} Cl^{-}	sodium chloride	NaCl
8	Fe^{+2} O^{2-}	iron(II) oxide	FeO

9	$\text{Fe}^{3+} \quad \text{O}^{2-}$	iron (III) oxide	Fe_2O_3
10	$\text{Mg}^{2+} \quad \text{PO}_4^{3-}$	magnesium phosphate	$\text{Mg}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2$
11	Fe (III) Cl	iron (III) chloride	FeCl_3
12	$\text{K}^+ \quad \text{PO}_4^{3-}$	potassium phosphate	K_3PO_4
13	$\text{H}^+ \quad \text{OH}^-$	hydrogen hydroxide <i>(should be able to tell this is ionic because hydroxide = ion)</i>	HOH
14	$\text{Ca}^{2+} \quad \text{CO}_3^{2-}$	calcium carbonate	CaCO_3

The Last Bit.....

Counting Atoms

A small number called a subscript, right next to a letter, indicates the number of atoms of an element in that compound.

If the subscript is next to a bracket, then it multiplies every element inside the bracket by that number.

How many atoms of each element are in the compounds below?

