

## 2.8 Naming Simple Compounds

### 1. Chemical Nomenclature

- 1) Chemical Nomenclature is the systematic naming of chemical compounds
- 2) Organic Compounds are derivatives of hydrocarbons
- 3) Inorganic compounds are compounds containing elements other than carbon.

### 2. Ionic Compounds

- 1) Ionic compounds are formed of a cation and an anion
- 2) The cation is always named first; the anion second
- 3) Monatomic anions have ending changed to -ide
- 4) Polyatomic ion names have a regular pattern:
  - a. The "ate" ion should be memorized e.g.  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  (sulfate)
  - b. The "ite" ion has one less oxygen e.g.  $\text{SO}_3^{2-}$  (sulfite)
  - c. The prefix hypo (meaning below) is used with the "ite" ending to indicate one less oxygen than the ite form e.g.  $\text{SO}_2^{2-}$  (hyposulfite)
  - d. The prefix per (from hyper, above) is used with the "ate" ending to indicate one more oxygen than the ate form e.g.  $\text{SO}_5^{2-}$  (persulfate)

Examples:

|              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| perchlorate  | $\text{ClO}_4^-$ |
| chlorate     | $\text{ClO}_3^-$ |
| chlorite     | $\text{ClO}_2^-$ |
| hypochlorite | $\text{ClO}^-$   |

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| pernitrate  | $\text{NO}_4^-$ |
| nitrate     | $\text{NO}_3^-$ |
| nitrite     | $\text{NO}_2^-$ |
| hyponitrite | $\text{NO}^-$   |

Warning: These are the mechanics; not all these ions exist

- 5) Cations with more than one oxidation state (the transition metals) must have a roman numeral to indicate the oxidations state e.g.  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  is Copper(II) (stock system)
- 6) The older method was to employ the suffix -ous or -ic at the end of the cation to tell which ion was formed (-ous was the lower charge)

The following charges and suffixes should be known

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| $\text{Fe}^{2+}$ | Ferrous   |
| $\text{Fe}^{3+}$ | Ferric    |
| $\text{Cu}^+$    | Cuprous   |
| $\text{Cu}^{2+}$ | Cupric    |
| $\text{Co}^{2+}$ | Cobaltous |
| $\text{Co}^{3+}$ | Cobaltic  |

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| $\text{Sn}^{2+}$ | Stannous  |
| $\text{Sn}^{4+}$ | Stannic   |
| $\text{Pb}^{2+}$ | Plumbous  |
| $\text{Pb}^{4+}$ | Plumbic   |
| $\text{Ni}^{2+}$ | Nickelous |
| $\text{Ni}^{3+}$ | Nickelic  |

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| $\text{Cr}^{2+}$ | Chromous  |
| $\text{Cr}^{3+}$ | Chromic   |
| $\text{Hg}^+$    | Mercurous |
| $\text{Hg}^{2+}$ | Mercuric  |
| $\text{Mn}^{2+}$ | Manganous |
| $\text{Mn}^{3+}$ | Manganic  |

### 3. Binary Molecular Compounds

- 1) A binary compound is composed of only two elements
- 2) Binary Molecular compounds are composed of two non-metals or metalloids.
- 3) When the two elements form only one compound, the compound is named by using the name of the first element followed by the stem of the second element with the suffix -ide added. e.g hydrogen chloride

- 4) When the two elements can form more than one compound, the older method was to use Greek prefixes to tell the number of atoms of each element.

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| mono-  | one   |
| di-    | two   |
| tri-   | three |
| tetra- | four  |
| penta- | five  |

|        |       |
|--------|-------|
| hexa-  | six   |
| hepta- | seven |
| octa-  | eight |
| nona-  | nine  |
| deca-  | ten   |

- 5) The first element  
 a. Use the full element name  
 b. Use the Greek prefix only if there is more than one
- 6) The second element  
 a. The element is named as if it were an anion (-ide)  
 b. The prefix is always used
- 7) The Stock System uses Roman Numerals to name binary molecular compounds. The roman numeral is the oxidation number of the first element

#### 4. Naming Acids

##### 1) Binary Acid

- a. composed of two elements: hydrogen and one other nonmetal  
 b. Named as follows: HYDRO + root of second element + -IC  
 e.g. HCl is Hydrochloric Acid; H<sub>2</sub>S is Hydrosulfuric Acid

##### 2) Oxyacid Acid (or Ternary acids)

- a. composed of three elements: hydrogen, oxygen and one other nonmetal  
 b. If the acid contains an anion whose name ends in -ate; use the root of the anion name and the suffix -IC e.g. H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> is Sulfuric Acid  
 c. There is a regular pattern for naming oxyacids: (not all possibilities exist)

| Anion formula                 | Anion name       | Acid Formula      | acid name         |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ClO <sub>4</sub> <sup>-</sup> | perchlorate ion  | HClO <sub>4</sub> | perchloric acid   |
| ClO <sub>3</sub> <sup>-</sup> | chlorate ion     | HClO <sub>3</sub> | chloric acid      |
| ClO <sub>2</sub> <sup>-</sup> | chlorite ion     | HClO <sub>2</sub> | chlorous acid     |
| ClO <sup>-</sup>              | hypochlorite ion | HClO              | hypochlorous acid |

##### 3) Conjugates of Oxyacids

- a. If H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> loses a hydrogen (H<sup>+</sup>) it becomes HSO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> and is called hydrogen sulfate ion or bisulfate ion  
 b. H<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub> (phosphoric acid) loses an H<sup>+</sup> to become H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub><sup>-</sup> called dihydrogen phosphate ion which can in turn lose another H<sup>+</sup> to become HPO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> called the monohydrogen phosphate ion

- 4) Molecular Compounds and associated acids  
Be careful of the state of binary molecular compounds. Note the following

|        |                   |          |                   |
|--------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|
| HCl(g) | Hydrogen chloride | HCl (aq) | Hydrochloric acid |
| HF(g)  | Hydrogen fluoride | HF (aq)  | Hydrofluoric acid |

- 5) Hydrates
- A compound that contains water molecules weakly bound in its crystals.
  - The substance without the water molecules is called an anhydrous substance
  - The formula for a hydrate is the anhydrous substance followed by a dot and H<sub>2</sub>O preceded by the number of water molecules e.g. MgSO<sub>4</sub>• 7H<sub>2</sub>O
  - A hydrate is named by naming the anhydrous substance followed by the Greek prefix corresponding to the number of water molecules and then the word hydrate. e.g. for the compound above, the name would be: Magnesium sulfate heptahydrate