

Chemical changes

Metals react with oxygen to produce metal oxides. The reactions are oxidation reactions because the metals gain oxygen. Reduction involves the loss of oxygen. Unreactive metals such as gold are found in the Earth as the metal itself but most metals are found as compounds that require chemical reactions to extract the metal. Metals less reactive than carbon can be extracted from their oxides by reduction with carbon.

Acids react with some metals to produce salts and hydrogen (MASH).

When metals react with other substances the metal atoms form positive ions (ion^{ve}). The reactivity of a metal is related to its tendency to form positive ions. Metals can be arranged in order of their reactivity in a reactivity series. The metals potassium, sodium, lithium, calcium, magnesium, zinc, iron and copper can be put in order of their reactivity from their reactions with water and dilute acids.

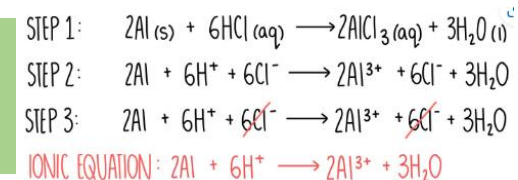
The non-metals hydrogen and carbon are often included in the reactivity series. **A more reactive metal can displace a less reactive metal from a compound.**

Metals Activity Series	
Very Reactive ↑	Li Lithium
	K Potassium
	Ba Barium
	Ca Calcium
	Na Sodium
	Mg Magnesium
	Al Aluminum
	C Carbon
	Zn Zinc
	Fe Iron
	Ni Nickel
	Sn Tin
	Pb Lead
	H Hydrogen
	Cu Copper
	Hg Mercury
	Ag Silver
	Au Gold
	Pt Platinum
↓ Very Unreactive	

Reacts with Water (between Cu and Ag)
Reacts with Dilute Acids (between Fe and Sn)
Reacts with Oxygen (between H and Cu)

Carbon and Hydrogen are not metals but are included for reference.

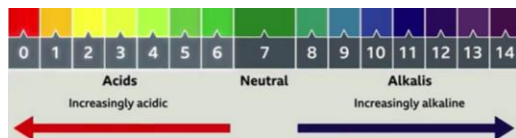
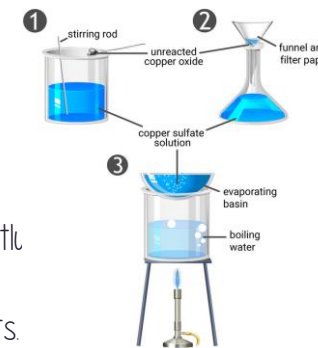
HT ONLY: metals lose electrons so are oxidised, non metals gain electrons so are reduced (OILRIG), these reactions are known as REDOX reactions. Ionic equation example:



Soluble salts can be made from neutralising acids by reacting them with solid insoluble substances, such as metals, metal oxides, hydroxides or carbonates (metal - MASH, base - BASHO, carbonate - CASHOCO).

The solid is added to the acid until no more reacts and the excess solid is filtered off to produce a solution of the salt (filtrate). The filtrate is then gently warmed on a water-bath to evaporate the water.

Salt solutions can be left in a warm place and crystallised to produce solid salts.



Acids produce hydrogen ions (H⁺) in aqueous solutions. Aqueous solutions of alkalis contain hydroxide ions (OH⁻).

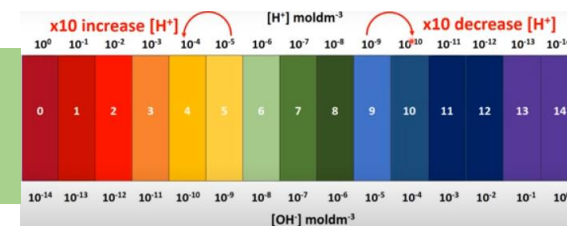
The pH scale, from 0 to 14, is a measure of the acidity or alkalinity of a solution, and can be measured using universal indicator or a pH probe.

In neutralisation reactions between an acid and an alkali, hydrogen ions react with hydroxide ions to produce water.



HT ONLY: A strong acid is completely ionised (H⁺) in aqueous solution. Examples of strong acids are hydrochloric, nitric and sulfuric acids. A weak acid is only partially ionised in aqueous solution. Examples of weak acids are ethanoic, citric and carbonic acids. For a given concentration of aqueous solutions, the stronger an acid, the lower the pH.

As the pH decreases by one unit, the hydrogen ion concentration of the solution increases by a factor of 10.

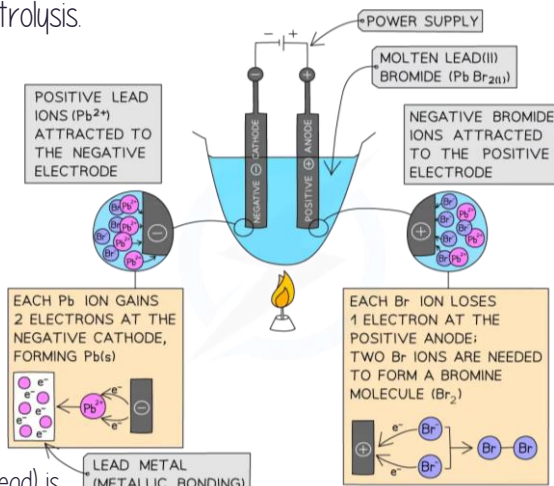


Examples:

MASH: Metal + Sulphuric acid --> metal sulphate + hydrogen(g)
 BASHO: Metal hydroxide + Hydrochloric acid --> metal chloride + water
 CASHOCO: Metal carbonate + Nitric acid --> metal nitrate + water + carbon dioxide(g)

Electrolysis: electro (electricity) — lysis (splitting)... splitting ionic substances with electricity

When an ionic compound is melted or dissolved in water, the ions are free to move about within the liquid or solution. These liquids and solutions are able to conduct electricity and are called electrolytes. Passing an electric current through electrolytes causes the ions to move to the electrodes. Positively charged ions move to the negative electrode (the cathode), and negatively charged ions move to the positive electrode (the anode). Ions are discharged at the electrodes producing elements. This process is called electrolysis.



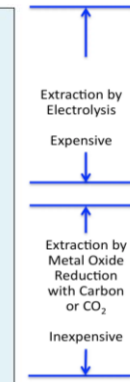
Negative ion	Element given off at anode
Chloride, Cl ⁻	Chlorine, Cl ₂
Bromide, Br ⁻	Bromine, Br ₂
Iodide, I ⁻	Iodine, I ₂
Sulfate, SO ₄ ²⁻	Oxygen, O ₂
Nitrate, NO ₃ ⁻	Oxygen, O ₂

the metal (lead) is produced at the cathode

non-metal (bromine) is produced at the anode.

Electrolysis of aluminium oxide (bauxite)

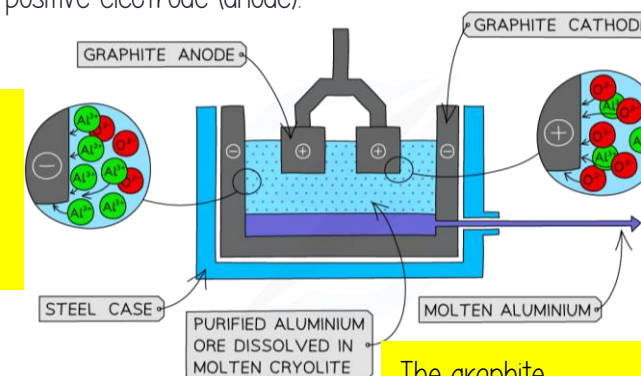
Very Reactive	Li Lithium
	K Potassium
	Ba Barium
	Ca Calcium
	Na Sodium
	Mg Magnesium
	Al Aluminium
	C Carbon
	Zn Zinc
	Fe Iron
	Ni Nickel
	Sn Tin
	Pb Lead
	H Hydrogen
	Cu Copper
	Hg Mercury
	Ag Silver
	Au Gold
Very Unreactive	Pt Platinum



Metals can be extracted from molten compounds using electrolysis. Electrolysis is used if the metal is too reactive to be extracted by reduction with carbon or if the metal reacts with carbon. Large amounts of energy are used in the extraction process to melt the compounds and to produce the electrical current.

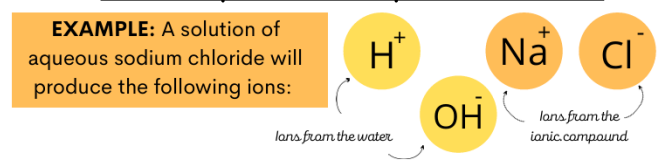
Aluminium is manufactured by the electrolysis of a molten mixture of aluminium oxide (bauxite) and cryolite using carbon as the positive electrode (anode).

Cryolite reduces the temperature at which aluminium oxide (bauxite) melts – this means the reaction requires less energy = cheaper!



The graphite (carbon) electrodes need replacing because the oxide ions (O²⁻) lose electrons at the anode forming oxygen. This then reacts with the carbon electrode producing carbon dioxide.

Electrolysis of an aqueous solution - ionic compound dissolved in WATER



The ions discharged when an aqueous solution is electrolysed using inert electrodes depend on the relative reactivity of the elements involved.

What will be produced at the ANODE?

Is there a Halide ion present?

- YES: The halogen will be produced at the Anode.
- NO: Oxygen will be produced at the Anode.

What will be produced at the CATHODE?

Is the metal less reactive than hydrogen?

- YES: The metal will be produced.
- NO: Hydrogen gas will be produced.

Legend: F, Cl, Br, I, At (A Halide is any element from Group 7)

At the negative electrode (cathode), hydrogen is produced if the metal is more reactive than hydrogen. At the positive electrode (anode), oxygen is produced unless the solution contains halide ions when the halogen is produced. This happens because in the aqueous solution water molecules break down producing hydrogen ions and hydroxide ions that are discharged.

HT ONLY: **DISCHARGING:** During electrolysis, at the cathode (negative electrode), positively charged ions (metal) gain electrons and so the reactions are reductions.

At the anode (positive electrode), negatively charged ions (non-metal) lose electrons and so the reactions are oxidations. Reactions at electrodes can be represented by half equations:

Examples of half equations at the cathode:

$$Ni^{2+} + e^{-} \rightarrow Ni$$

$$Pb^{2+} + 2e^{-} \rightarrow Pb$$

$$2H^{+} + 2e^{-} \rightarrow H_2$$

Examples of half equations at the anode:

$$2Cl^{-} \rightarrow Cl_2 + 2e^{-}$$

$$2O^{2-} \rightarrow O_2 + 4e^{-}$$

$$4OH^{-} \rightarrow O_2 + 2H_2O + 4e^{-}$$