

Category 1 – Matter and the Periodic Table

CHANGES AND PROPERTIES

Change	Description	Examples
physical	change in size, shape, or state; remains the same substance	boiling water, chopping wood
chemical	new substance is made; bonds between atoms are made or broken; often see a color change, temperature change, or the formation of gas or precipitate (solid)	electrolysis of water (to H ₂ , O ₂), burning wood (makes H ₂ O, CO ₂)
Property	Description	Examples
physical	can be observed without changing the substance into a different substance	boiling point, color, density, solubility
chemical	can be observed when a substance changes into a different substance	reactivity with O ₂ , flammability, toxicity

STATES OF MATTER AND PROPERTIES

Property	Solid	Liquid	Gas
compressible	essentially no	essentially no	yes
shape	fixed	container's shape	fills space
volume	constant	constant	can change
structure	forces keep particles in a rigid structure	intermolecular forces keep particles together but allow movement	particles freely move, no forces

extensive property: dependent on sample size **Example:** mass of H₂O
intensive property: independent of sample size **Example:** boiling point of H₂O

SUBSTANCES AND MIXTURES

atom: smallest complete part of an element **Example:** Helium atom
element: substance made of one kind of atom **Example:** Helium (He)
compound: substance made of two or more different elements **Examples:** H₂O or NaCl
substance: contains only one kind of matter; no two substances have identical chemical and physical properties; can be broken down into different parts using physical means
Examples: element like iron (Fe) or compound like water (H₂O)

mixture: combination of two or more substances in which each substance maintains its own properties; a mixture can be separated using physical means
Example: In a famous story, Archimedes determined whether the king's crown was made of pure gold by measuring its density. He found that if it was made of pure gold, it would have a density of 19.3 g/cm³. He found that the crown's density was 18.8 g/cm³, then it was a mixture.

PERIODIC TABLE TRENDS

atomic radius: as move left to right (protons ↑), electrons attracted inward and radii ↓; as move down column, radii ↑
ionic radius: for anions (gain electrons), ionic radii ↑ (compared to atomic radii); for cations (lose electrons), ionic radii ↓
electronegativity: atom's tendency to attract electrons; ↑ as move left to right (excluding noble gases); ↓ as move down column
ionization energy: energy needed to remove an electron from an atom; ↑ as move left to right; ↓ as move down column

PERIODIC TABLE DEVELOPMENT AND FEATURES

In 1869, Mendeleev organized known elements in order of their atomic weights, grouping those with similar properties (like Li, Na, and K which all react violently with H₂O to form H₂ gas). Over time, other scientists added to his work to create the periodic table (now ordered by atomic number).
valence electrons: electrons in an atom's outermost orbital shell; can be gained, lost, or shared in a chemical reaction
periodic table: chart of elements ordered by atomic number and grouped by number of valence electrons and physical and chemical properties; vary predictably in the table (horizontal and vertical directions)
row or period: elements are in order of increasing atomic number; atomic number = number of protons = number of electrons (in a neutral atom)
column or group (family): elements in a group have the same number of valence electrons and have similar physical and chemical properties; elements in a group are grouped together in a group of most similar elements (F and Cl (VIIA))
Type: metal, nonmetal, metalloid
Physical Properties: ductile, malleable, shiny, conductor, brittle, dull, conductor, insulator, semiconductor under some conditions

PERIODIC TABLE TRENDS

oxidation number: number assigned to an atom or ion in a substance; represents electrons gained or lost; sum to 0 for neutral compound
Example: Fluorine gains 1 electron → fluoride F⁻ (oxidation number -1)
 Calcium loses 2 electrons → calcium Ca²⁺ (oxidation number +2)
Description and Oxidation Number(s)
 alkali metal: very reactive metal; wants to lose 1 electron; +1
 alkaline earth metal: reactive metal; wants to lose 2 electrons; +2
 halogen: reactive nonmetal; wants to gain 1 electron; -1
 noble gas: inert (not readily reactive) nonmetal; has full outer shell (8 valence electrons except He has 2); 0
 transition metal: metal in table's center; has partially filled shell and variable oxidation numbers (like Cu¹⁺ or Cu²⁺)

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SAMPLE PAGE -- Page 1 of 6
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