

COMMON ELEMENTS AND IONS
(arranged in order of increasing atomic number)

Symbol	Name	Charge on ion	Name of ion
H	hydrogen	+1	hydrogen
He	helium	none	
C	carbon	none	
N	nitrogen	-3	nitride
O	oxygen	-2	oxide
F	fluorine	-1	fluoride
Na	sodium	+1	sodium
Mg	magnesium	+2	magnesium
Al	aluminum*	+3	aluminum*
Si	silicon	none	
P	phosphorus	-3	phosphide
S	sulfur**	-2	sulfide**
Cl	chlorine	-1	chloride
K	potassium	+1	potassium
Ca	calcium	+2	calcium
Fe	iron	(more than one)	
Cu	copper	(more than one)	
Zn	zinc	+2	zinc
Br	bromine	-1	bromide
Ag	silver	+1	silver
Sn	tin	(more than one)	
I	iodine	-1	iodide
Au	gold	(more than one)	
Hg	mercury	(more than one)	
Pb	lead	(more than one)	

Note: we do not expect you to know the ion charges on those elements that can form more than one ion (Fe, Cu, Sn, etc.).

*This name is spelled “aluminium” in many English-speaking countries.

**These names are spelled “sulphur” and “sulphide” in many English-speaking countries.

A few common polyatomic ions that you should know

Formula	Name
OH^-	hydroxide
NH_4^+	ammonium
CO_3^{2-}	carbonate
NO_3^-	nitrate
PO_4^{3-}	phosphate
SO_4^{2-}	sulfate
HCO_3^-	bicarbonate (common name) hydrogen carbonate (official name)