



# AP CHEMICAL NAMING

## IONIC compound

(metal + nonmetal)

- 1) name the first element. Use roman numerals for *d*-block metals with *more than 1 one oxidation number*.
- 2) name the second element with the *-ide* ending

*Ex:* NaCl – sodium chloride  
CuCl<sub>2</sub> – copper(II) chloride

### ***d*-block metals:**

Cr<sup>2+</sup>, Cr<sup>3+</sup>, Cu<sup>1+</sup>, Cu<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>2+</sup>, Co<sup>3+</sup>, Fe<sup>2+</sup>, Fe<sup>3+</sup>,  
Pb<sup>2+</sup>, Pb<sup>3+</sup>, Pb<sup>4+</sup>, Mn<sup>2+</sup>, Mn<sup>7+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>, Hg<sup>2+</sup>,  
Ni<sup>1+</sup>, Ni<sup>2+</sup>, Sn<sup>2+</sup>, Sn<sup>4+</sup>, V<sup>2+</sup>, V<sup>3+</sup>, V<sup>4+</sup>

## COVALENT compound

(nonmetal + nonmetal)

- 1) name the first element using the proper prefix (never use *mono*-)
- 2) name the second element using the proper prefix with the *-ide* ending

*Ex:* NO – nitrogen monoxide  
N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>5</sub> – dinitrogen pentoxide

### **Prefixes:**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<i>mono</i>	<i>di</i>	<i>tri</i>	<i>tetra</i>	<i>penta</i>	<i>hexa</i>	<i>hepta</i>	<i>octa</i>	<i>nano</i>	<i>deca</i>

## ORGANIC compound including Hydrocarbons

(compounds containing any of the following elements: C, O, H, N)

- 1) identify compound as: Alkanes (all **single** bonds) = C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n+2</sub> *Ex:* CH<sub>4</sub> – methane  
Alkenes (at least 1 **double** bond) = C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n</sub> *Ex:* C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>6</sub> – propene  
Alkynes (at least 1 **triple** bond) = C<sub>n</sub>H<sub>2n-2</sub> *Ex:* C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>2</sub> – ethyne  
(commonly known as acetylene)
- 2) using the proper prefix to represent the number of CARBON atoms in the compound.
- 3) if compound has an alcohol group (-OH), use the *-ol* ending. *Ex:* C<sub>4</sub>H<sub>9</sub>OH – butanol

### **Prefixes according to the # of CARBON atoms:**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	12	17
<i>meth</i>	<i>eth</i>	<i>prop</i>	<i>but</i>	<i>pent</i>	<i>hex</i>	<i>hept</i>	<i>oct</i>	<i>non</i>	<i>dec</i>	<i>dodec</i>	<i>heptadec</i>

## ACID

(compound *beginning* with hydrogen)

- 1) hydrogen + halogen
  - a) name *hydro-* for H atom
  - b) replace the *-ine* ending of the halogen with *-ic* ending
  - c) add the word *acid*

*Ex:* HCl – hydrochloric acid

- 2) hydrogen + polyatomic ion
  - a) polyatomic ion has ending:  
replace *-ate* with *-ic*  
replace *-ite* with *-ous*
  - b) add the word *acid*

*Ex:* H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> – sulfuric acid  
H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>3</sub> – sulfurous acid

## compound w/ POLYATOMIC ION

(metal *or* nonmetal + polyatomic ion)

- 1) use the rules for naming ionic compounds
- 2) never modify the special name of the polyatomic ion

*Ex:* NaHCO<sub>3</sub> – sodium bicarbonate  
NH<sub>4</sub>Cl – ammonium chloride  
Fe(NO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>3</sub> – iron (III) nitrate

### **short-cuts:**

sulfate (SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>) – *-ate* ending for polyatomic ions with more oxygen atoms  
sulfite (SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup>) – *-ite* ending for ions with less oxygen atoms

*Ex:* nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>)      nitrite (NO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>)