

## Writing Half Equations

**Answer the questions below.**

1. Define oxidation in terms of electrons.

**Oxidation is the loss of electrons**

2. Define reduction in terms of electrons.

**Reduction is the gain of electrons**

3. True or false? A more reactive metal is more likely to form positive ions.

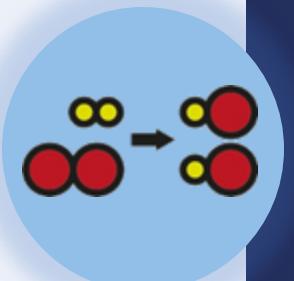
**True**

4. Sodium atoms (Na) are oxidised to  $\text{Na}^+$  ions in a reaction. Why is this an oxidation reaction?

**This is an oxidation reaction because the sodium atom lost an electron.**

5. Complete the general word equation to show the product of a reaction between a metal and oxygen. Metal + oxygen  $\rightarrow$

**Metal + oxygen  $\rightarrow$  metal oxide**



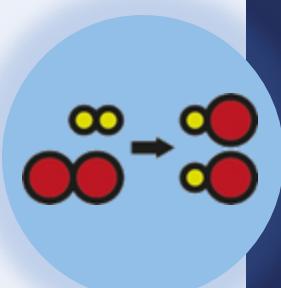
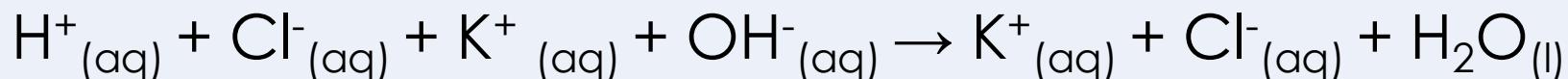
## Writing Half Equations

### Do Now:

1. Define oxidation in terms of electrons.
2. Define reduction in terms of electrons.
3. True or false? A more reactive metal is more likely to form positive ions.
4. Sodium atoms (Na) are oxidised to Na<sup>+</sup> ions in a reaction. Why is this an oxidation reaction?
5. Complete the general word equation to show the product of a reaction between a metal and oxygen. Metal + oxygen →

### Drill:

1. State the formula for a chloride ion.
2. Rewrite this ionic equation so that it is correct:

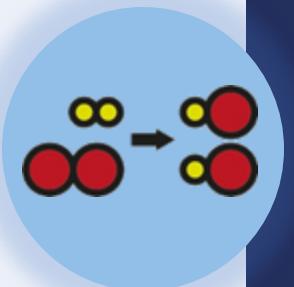


# Writing Half Equations

## Read Now:

Researchers at the University of Maryland in the US have found that a battery can be made from chitosan, a material in crab and shrimp shells, and zinc. The battery is rechargeable. The benefits of the battery include that it is safe, can be recharged up to 10,000 times, and it can be safely recycled. Scientists hope that this material could be an alternative to lithium-ion batteries. These are the batteries which we use in our phones, small and large appliances, smart watches, electric vehicles and in many other devices. Unfortunately, lithium-ion batteries contain polypropylene and polycarbonate which take hundreds of years to degrade. The amount of chitosan powder that would be needed to make a coin-sized battery would cost just 0.00015 p.

1. What is chitosan?
2. List 3 benefits of a battery made from chitosan.
3. Where do we use lithium-ion batteries?
4. State a disadvantage of lithium-ion batteries.
5. How much would it cost to purchase enough chitosan to make a coin sized battery?



# (HT) Writing Half Equations

C4.2.5

Science  
**Mastery**

C4.2.1 PKR: Reactions of Metals

C4.2.2 Extracting Less Reactive Metals

C4.2.3 PKR: Ions, Ionic Bonding and Deducing Ionic Formulae

C4.2.4 (HT) Ionic Equations and Displacement Reactions

➤ **C4.2.5 (HT) Writing Half Equations**

C4.2.6 (HT) Ionic Equations for the Reactions of Acids and Metals

C4.2.7 Introduction to Electrolysis

C4.2.8 Extracting Metals by Electrolysis

C4.2.9 Electrolysis of Molten Ionic Compounds

C4.2.10 Electrolysis in Solutions

C4.2.11RP: Electrolysis of Aqueous Solutions 1

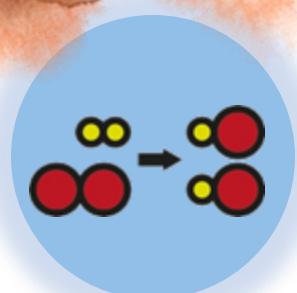
C4.2.12 RP: Electrolysis of Aqueous Solutions 2

C4.2.13 TIF: Corrosion and its Prevention

C4.2.14 (HT) Obtaining Raw Materials

C4.2.15 Recycling Metals

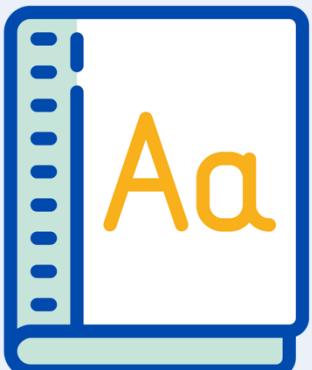
C4.2.16 Feedback Lesson



## Following this lesson, students will be able to:

- Split an ionic equation into two half equations
- Identify the species which are oxidised and reduced.

### Key Words:



half equation

electron

redox

# This is the fix-it portion of the lesson

The **fix-it** is an opportunity to respond to gaps in knowledge, especially those identified by the previous lesson's exit ticket.

- The teacher should customise this slide as needed, to facilitate
  - **reteach, explanation, demonstration or modelling** of ideas and concepts that students have not yet grasped or have misunderstood.
  - **practise** answering specific questions or of key skills.
  - **redrafting** or **improving** previous work.

Answer the questions below.

1. Define reduction.

- A. Reduction is the loss of oxygen or the gain of electrons
- B. Reduction is the loss of oxygen or the loss of electrons
- C. Reduction is the gain of oxygen or the gain of electrons
- D. Reduction is the gain of oxygen or the loss of electrons.

2. Magnesium reacts with copper (II) sulfate in a displacement reaction.

The chemical equation for this reaction is  $Mg(s) + CuSO_4(aq) \rightarrow MgSO_4(aq) + Cu(s)$ . What is the ionic equation for this reaction?

- A.  $Mg(s) + Cu^{2+}(aq) + SO_4^{2-}(aq) \rightarrow Mg^{2+}(aq) + SO_4^{2-}(aq) + Cu(s)$
- B.  $Mg(s) + Cu^{2+}(aq) \rightarrow Mg^{2+}(aq) + Cu(s)$
- C.  $2Mg(s) + Cu^{2+}(aq) \rightarrow Mg^{2+}(aq) + 2Cu(s)$

Exit ticket

Answer the questions below.

3. Sodium atoms are sometimes oxidised to become positively charged sodium ions. Why is this an oxidation reaction?

- A. Because oxygen is added to the sodium atoms
- B. Because oxygen is lost from the sodium atoms
- C. Because the sodium atoms lose electrons to become positively charged
- D. Because the sodium atoms gain electrons to become positively charged

Exit ticket

# What does an ionic equation show?



- Magnesium **atoms** lose 2 electrons to become positively charged **ions**
- This loss of electrons is called **oxidation**

**Oxidation** is the loss of electrons

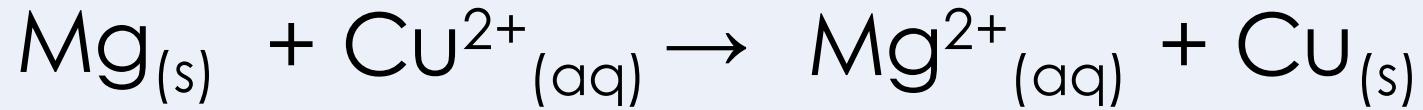
- Copper **ions** gain 2 electrons to become neutral **atoms**
- This gain of electrons is called **reduction**

**Reduction** is the gain of electrons

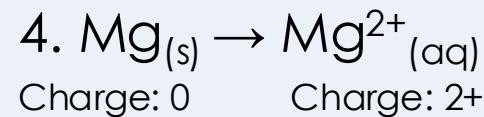
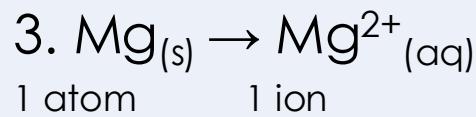
**A redox reaction** is one in which oxidation and reduction take place at the same time

# Half Equations

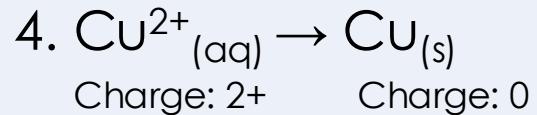
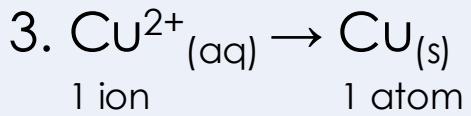
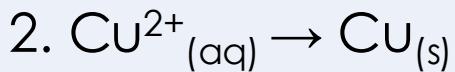
We can separate an ionic equation into two **half equations**.



1. Magnesium



1. Copper



## Steps for writing half equations:

- Pick one element** that's on both sides of the equation
- Write down **reactant** → **product**, copying from the equation exactly
- Balance the atoms and ions**
- Add up the charges** on both sides
- Balance the charges** with electrons

# What does a half equation tell us?



- Magnesium **atoms** lose 2 electrons to become positively charged **ions**
- This loss of electrons is called **oxidation**

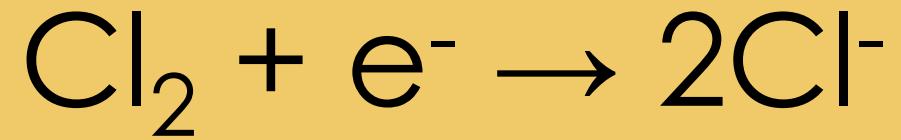
**Oxidation** is the loss of electrons



- Copper **ions** gain 2 electrons to become neutral **atoms**
- This gain of electrons is called **reduction**

**Reduction** is the gain of electrons

Is this correct?



## Drill

1. What happens to metal atoms in order for them to form ions?
2. What happens to Group 6 elements in order for them to form ions?
3. How many electrons will a beryllium atom lose in order to form an ion?
4. What is the charge on a chloride ion
5. Write down the formula for a nitrate ion
6. Write a half equation that shows the following: a lithium atom loses one electron to become a lithium ion with the formula  $\text{Li}^+$
7. Write a half equation that shows the following: a fluoride ion with the formula  $\text{F}^-$  loses an electron to form a fluorine atom.
8. Rewrite the following half equation, adding in the state symbols:  $\text{Na}^+ + \text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Na}$
9. For the half equation in question 8, state whether sodium ion is oxidised or reduced.
10. Explain your answer to question 9.

## Drill answers

1. Metal atoms lose electrons to form ions
2. Group 6 elements gain 2 electrons to form ions
3. A beryllium atom will lose 2 electrons to form an ion
4. A chloride ion has the formula  $\text{Cl}^-$ , so it has a -1 charge
5. A nitrate ion has the formula  $\text{NO}_3^-$
6.  $\text{Li}_{(s)} \rightarrow \text{Li}^+_{(aq)} + e^-$
7.  $\text{F}^-_{(aq)} + e^- \rightarrow \text{F}_{(s)}$
8.  $\text{Na}^+_{(aq)} + e^- \rightarrow \text{Na}_{(s)}$
9. The sodium ion is reduced
10. The sodium ion is reduced because it gains electrons to form a sodium atom

# I: Writing half equations

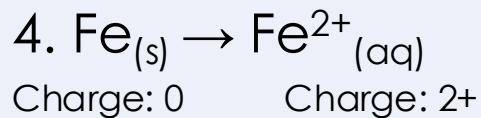
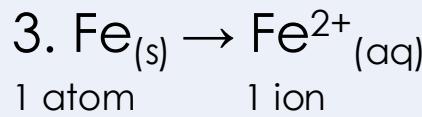
The ionic equation for a reaction is as follows:



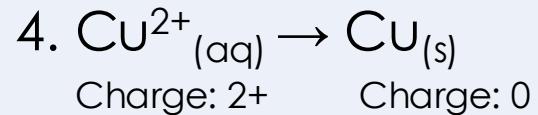
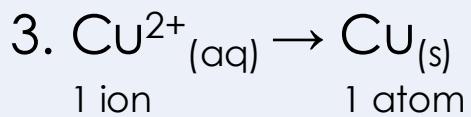
**Use this ionic equation to write two half equations.**



1. Iron



1. Copper



**Steps for writing half equations:**

1. **Pick one element** that's on both sides of the equation
2. Write down **reactant** → **product**, copying from the equation exactly
3. **Balance the atoms and ions**
4. **Add up the charges** on both sides
5. **Balance the charges** with electrons

# We: Writing half equations

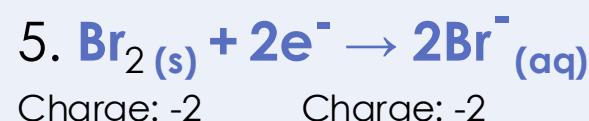
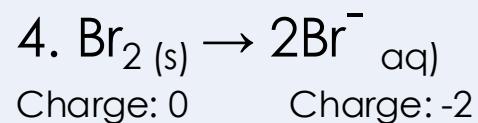
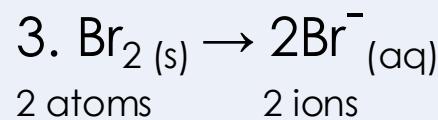
The ionic equation for a reaction is as follows:



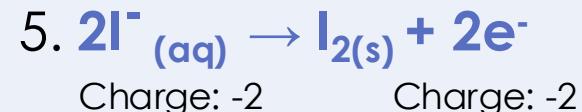
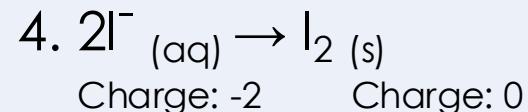
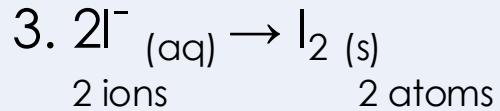
**Use this ionic equation to write two half equations.**



1. Bromine



1. Iodine



## Steps for writing half equations:

1. **Pick one element** that's on both sides of the equation
2. Write down **reactant** → **product**, copying from the equation exactly
3. **Balance the atoms and ions**
4. **Add up the charges** on both sides
5. **Balance the charges** with electrons

# You: Writing half equations

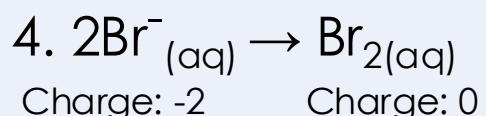
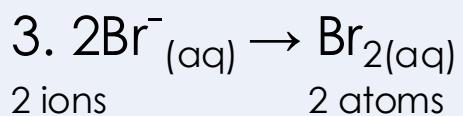
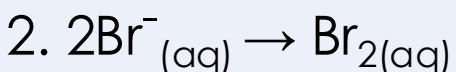
The ionic equation for a reaction is as follows:



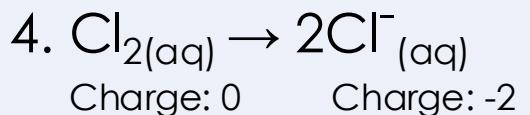
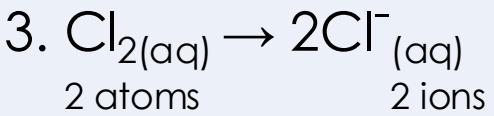
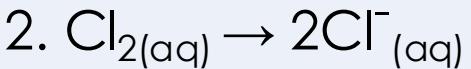
**Use this ionic equation to write two half equations.**



1. Bromine



1. Chlorine



## Steps for writing half equations:

1. **Pick one element** that's on both sides of the equation
2. Write down **reactant** → **product**, copying from the equation exactly
3. **Balance the atoms and ions**
4. **Add up the charges** on both sides
5. **Balance the charges** with electrons

## Answer the questions below.

1. The reaction between magnesium and copper (II) sulfate can be represented by the following ionic equation:



Which answer correctly splits this ionic equation into two half equations?

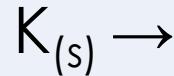
- A.  $\text{Mg}_{(s)} \rightarrow \text{Mg}^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2\text{e}^-$        $\text{Cu}^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Cu}_{(s)}$
- B.  $\text{Mg}_{(s)} + 2\text{e}^- \rightarrow \text{Mg}^{2+}_{(aq)}$        $\text{Cu}^{2+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow \text{Cu}_{(s)} + 2\text{e}^-$
- C.  $\text{Mg}_{(s)} \rightarrow \text{Mg}^{2+}_{(aq)}$        $\text{Cu}^{2+}_{(aq)} \rightarrow \text{Cu}_{(s)}$

2. What is a redox reaction?

- A. A redox reaction is one which oxidation or reduction take place
- B. A redox reaction is one in which oxidation and reduction take place
- C. A redox reaction is one in which oxidation and reduction take place at the same time

## Answer the question below.

3. Complete the half equation to show the oxidation of a potassium atom.



- A.  $K^{2+}_{(aq)} + 2e^-$
- B.  $K^+_{(s)} + e^-$
- C.  $K^+_{(aq)} + e^-$

## Lesson C4.2.5

What was good about this lesson?

What can we do to improve this lesson?

[Send us your feedback by clicking this link](#)  
or by emailing [sciencemastery@arkonline.org](mailto:sciencemastery@arkonline.org)  
Thank you!