

# Chemistry lab: hydrolysis of salts flashcard



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

Concepts/Application: Writing chemical formulas, writing ionic equations, determining solubility, measuring acidity and basicity. Pre-Lab Discussion A salt is an ionic compound containing positive ions other than  $H^+$  and negative ions other than  $OH^-$ . Most salts will dissociate to some degree when placed in water. In many cases, ions from the salt will react with water molecules to produce hydration ions ( $H_3O^+$ ) or hydroxide ions.

Any chemical reaction in which water is one of the reactants is called a hydrolysis reaction. Salts are generally formed from the neutralization reaction between an acid and a base. A salt formed from a strong acid and a strong base will not hydrolyze (react with water). When placed in water, these salts dissociate completely, and their ions remain uncombined in solution. An example of such a salt is NaCl, formed from a strong acid (HCl) and a strong base (NaOH). Salts formed from a strong acid and a weak base hydrolyze to form a solution that is slightly acidic.

In this kind of hydrolysis, the water molecules actually react with the cation from the weak base. For example, when ammonium chloride,  $NH_4Cl$ , hydrolyzes, water molecules react with the  $NH_4^+$  ion:  $NH_4^+ + H_2O \rightleftharpoons NH_3 + H_3O^+$ . The formation of the  $H_3O^+$  (hydration) ion from this reaction makes the solution acidic. Salts formed from a weak acid and a strong base hydrolyze to form a solution that is slightly basic. In this kind of hydrolysis, it is the anion from the weak acid that actually reacts with the water.

For example, when sodium acetate,  $CH_3COONa$ , hydrolyzes, water molecules react with the acetate ion:  $CH_3COO^- + H_2O \rightleftharpoons CH_3COOH + OH^-$ . The formation of the  $OH^-$  ion from this reaction makes the solution basic. Salts formed from

a weak acid and a weak base produce solutions that may be slightly acidic, slightly basic, or neutral, depending on how strongly the ions of the salt are hydrolysis. In this experiment you will test several different salt solutions with pH paper and phenolphthalein solution to determine their acidity or basicity.

**Purpose** Determine the relative acidity or basicity of various salt solutions. Of these solutions. **Materials** 1. Contemplate Determine the pH Stock solutions of Cupric sulfate, Calcium nitrate, Potassium phosphate, Potassium hydroxide, Sodium bromide, Sodium sulfide, Ammonium carbonate, Sodium chromate, Magnesium bromide and Sodium chloride. Universal pH indicator paper, range 0-14 Phenolphthalein indicator solution **Procedure** 1. Obtain a clean, dry Contemplate. 2. To wells 1 through 10 of the Contemplate, add eight to ten drops of the following solutions.

Well 1: Cupric sulfate Well 6: Sodium sulfide | Well 2: Calcium nitrate | Well 7: Ammonium carbonate | Well 3: Potassium phosphate Well 8: Sodium chromate | Well 4: Potassium chloride Well 9: Magnesium bromide | Well 5: Sodium bromide Well 10: Sodium chloride . Add two drops of phenolphthalein solution to each of the nine occupied wells of the Contemplate. Record your observations in the data table. 4. Test each solution with pH paper and record your results.

**Observations and Data** | Data Table | salt acid | Parent base | Effect on Indicator | | Strength of base | Lowell # | Parent acid | (formula) | Strength of  
NOTE: How do you determine the “ Parent acid” and “ Parent base” for a particular salt? Here’s how... 1. Divide the salt into its constituent anion and

anion. 2. Combine the action from the salt with an OH<sup>-</sup> ion, in the proper ratio to create a neutral formula. This formula represents the parent base. Record the formula in the “ Parent base” column of the data table. 3.

Combine an H<sup>+</sup> ion with the anion from the salt, in the proper ratio to create a neutral formula. This formula represents the parent acid. Record the formula in the “ Parent acid” column of the data table. Equations 1. Write dissociation equations for the following salts: a) Cupric sulfate b) Calcium nitrate c) Potassium phosphate d) Potassium chloride e) Sodium bromide f) Sodium sulfide g) Ammonium carbonate h) Sodium chromate I) Magnesium bromide J) Sodium chloride . Complete each ionic equation. Beneath each equation, write the net ionic equation by eliminating all spectator ions.

CUE +2 + ca+2 K+1 An+1 Ana+1 NH+1 MGM+2 SIS-2 NINE-1 PAP-3 CLC-I ar-  
I CA-3 cry-2 + BRB-1 EH - EH - EH - H2O - CLC\_I

Conclusions and Questions  
1. How do your observations and pH readings compare with the expected results based on the equations for the hydrolysis reactions? 2. What is a spectator ion? Name the spectator ions present in each hydrolysis reaction in this experiment. 3. A salt formed from a strong acid and a strong base produces a neutral solution. A salt of a weak acid and a weak base may or may not produce a neutral solution.

Please explain. 4. Commercial baking soda is Enhance (sodium hydrogen carbonate, or sodium bicarbonate). It often is used to counteract excess acidity in the stomach. Explain why baking soda is an effective antacid, using what you have learned in this hydrolysis lab. Write a chemical equation to substantiate your ideas. 5. What are two significant chemistry concepts that

were learned or reinforced for you through this lab exercise? 6. What are two are two questions you have about hydrolysis reactions or the general behavior of acids and bases?