

## **Chemistry Essentials Cheatsheet**

A quick reference guide covering fundamental concepts in chemistry, including atomic structure, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and thermodynamics. Ideal for students and professionals needing a concise overview of key chemical principles and equations.



#### **Atomic Structure & Periodic Table**

#### Basic Atomic Structure

| Protons              | Positively charged particles in the nucleus. Number defines the element.         |
|----------------------|--|
| Neutrons             | Neutral particles in the nucleus.<br>Contribute to atomic mass,<br>isotopes.     |
| Electrons            | Negatively charged particles orbiting the nucleus. Involved in chemical bonding. |
| Atomic<br>Number (Z) | Number of protons in the nucleus of an atom.                                     |
| Mass<br>Number (A)   | Total number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus.                             |
| Isotopes             | Atoms of the same element with different numbers of neutrons.                    |

#### Periodic Table Trends

| Electronegativity         | Increases across a period, decreases down a group. |
|---------------------------|--|
| Ionization Energy         | Increases across a period, decreases down a group. |
| Atomic Radius             | Decreases across a period, increases down a group. |
| Metallic Character        | Decreases across a period, increases down a group. |
| Reactivity (Metals)       | Increases down a group (Group 1 & 2).              |
| Reactivity<br>(Nonmetals) | Decreases down a group (Group 17).                 |

#### Quantum Numbers

| Principal Quantum<br>Number (n)    | Energy level of electron (n = 1, 2, 3).                  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Azimuthal<br>Quantum Number<br>(I) | Shape of orbital (I = 0 to n-<br>1; 0=s, 1=p, 2=d, 3=f). |
| Magnetic Quantum<br>Number (ml)    | Orientation of orbital in space (ml = -I to +I).         |
| Spin Quantum<br>Number (ms)        | Spin of electron (+1/2 or -1/2).                         |
|                                    |  |

## **Chemical Reactions & Stoichiometry**

#### Types of Chemical Reactions

| Combination (Synthesis): $A + B \rightarrow AB$      |
|--|
| Decomposition: AB → A + B                            |
| Single Displacement: $A + BC \rightarrow AC + B$     |
| <b>Double Displacement:</b> AB + CD → AD + CB        |
| Combustion: Fuel + $O_2 \rightarrow CO_2 + H_2O$     |
| Acid-Base Neutralization: Acid + Base → Salt + Water |

### Stoichiometry Essentials

| Mole (mol)           | Amount of substance containing Avogadro's number of particles (6.022 x 10 <sup>23</sup> ).          |
|----------------------|---|
| Molar Mass<br>(M)    | Mass of one mole of a substance (g/mol).  |
| Molarity (M)         | Concentration of a solution in moles per liter (mol/L).   |
| Percent<br>Yield     | ((Actual Yield) /<br>(Theoretical Yield)) * 100%  |
| Limiting<br>Reactant | The reactant that is completely consumed in a reaction and determines the amount of product formed. |
| Theoretical<br>Yield | The maximum amount of product that can be formed from the   |

### **Balancing Chemical Equations**

- 1. Write the unbalanced equation.
- 2. Identify the most complex compound and start balancing with it.
- 3. Balance elements that appear in only one reactant and one product first.
- 4. Balance polyatomic ions as a single unit if they appear on both sides of the equation.
- 5. If necessary, multiply all coefficients by the smallest whole number to obtain integer coefficients.

### Gases, Liquids, and Solids

## Gas Laws

| Boyle's Law         | $P_1V_1 = P_2V_2$ (Constant temperature and number of moles)     |
|---------------------|--|
| Charles's Law       | $V_1/T_1 = V_2/T_2$ (Constant pressure and number of moles)      |
| Avogadro's Law      | $(V_1/n_1 = V_2/n_2)$ (Constant temperature and pressure)        |
| Ideal Gas Law       | PV = nRT (R = 0.0821 L<br>atm / (mol K) or 8.314 J /<br>(mol K)) |
| Combined Gas<br>Law | $(P_1V_1) / T_1 = (P_2V_2) / T_2$ (Constant number of moles)     |

Dalton's Law of P\_tot
Partial Pressures ...

 $P_{\text{total}} = P_{1} + P_{2} + P_{3} + \cdots$ 

given amounts of reactants.

## Intermolecular Forces

**London Dispersion Forces (LDF)**: Weakest, present in all molecules.

Dipole-Dipole Forces: Between polar molecules.

 $\label{thm:model} \mbox{\bf Hydrogen Bonding:} \ \mbox{Strongest, between} \\ \mbox{molecules with H bonded to N, O, or F.}$ 

# Phase Transitions

| Melting (Fusion)       | Solid to liquid |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Freezing               | Liquid to solid |
| Vaporization (Boiling) | Liquid to gas   |
| Condensation           | Gas to liquid   |
| Sublimation            | Solid to gas    |
| Deposition             | Gas to solid    |

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# Thermodynamics & Equilibrium

## Thermodynamic Functions

| Enthalpy<br>(H)          | Heat content of a system at constant pressure. $\Delta H = \Delta U + P\Delta V$                               |
|--------------------------|--|
| Entropy (S)              | Measure of disorder or randomness in a system. (ΔS = q_rev / T)  |
| Gibbs Free<br>Energy (G) | Predicts spontaneity of a reaction. $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$  |
| Internal<br>Energy (U)   | Total energy of a system. $\Delta U = q$<br>+ w $(q = heat, w = work)$   |
| Heat (q)                 | Transfer of thermal energy. $q = mc\Delta T$ (m = mass, c = specific heat, $\Delta T$ = change in temperature) |

## **Equilibrium Constant**

| Equilibrium<br>Constant (K)          | Ratio of products to reactants at equilibrium.  For $aA + bB \neq cC + dD$ , $K = ([C]^c[D]^d) / ([A]^a[B]^b)$ |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Кр                                   | Equilibrium constant in terms of partial pressures.  |
| Кс                                   | Equilibrium constant in terms of molar concentrations.   |
| Relationship<br>between Kp and<br>Kc | $(Kp = Kc(RT)^{\Delta}n)$ , where $\Delta n$ is the change in the number of moles of gas.                      |

## Le Chatelier's Principle

If a change of condition (stress) is applied to a system in equilibrium, the system will shift in a direction that relieves the stress.

Stressors: Change in concentration, pressure, volume, or temperature.

Effect of adding heat: favors endothermic reaction

Effect of removing heat: favors exothermic reaction

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