

- If it's a **basic medium**
 - Balance oxygen** as above.
 - Balance hydrogen.** Instead of balancing this with H⁺, you need to balance it with OH⁻. This means that you may get extra oxygens. If this happens, add another H₂O on the other side and continue adding OH⁻ until it balances. There is also **another method** that is detailed below.
 - Balance the charge** as above.
 - Now, we can add the reactions together to come up with our final reaction. **Multiply each reaction by an integer** so that there are the same number of electrons on each side (i.e. they cancel out). This means that the electrons of one half-reaction should be on the OPPOSITE side of the electrons in the other half-reaction. If this is not the case, go back and check your work. More than likely, there's a mistake in there somewhere.
 - Combine the half-reactions and cancel. The electrons should cancel out completely, and H₂O's and H⁺'s may cancel somewhat. If you have time, it's usually a good idea to make sure that the equation is balanced by elements and by charge.
- Second method for balancing redox reactions in basic solution:** If it's in a basic medium, add OH⁻ to each side of the final equation until all H⁺ is gone; then, cancel again. Remember that OH⁻ + H⁺ → H₂O in this step.

Activity Series One task participants may be asked to complete in this event is to construct an activity series based on what ions react with others. This activity series dictates what elements oxidize more easily than others. One of the most common ways that you will have to make an activity series in Chem Lab is through performing single replacement reactions by putting metal strips in a metal solution and seeing if there is a reaction. Each team will have a set of solutions and metals, and will have to perform each possible combination of metal to solution. A table can be formed recording which combinations result in reactions. The metal that reacts the most is the one that oxidizes the most easily, while the metal that does not react at all is the one that reduces the most easily. Once complete, the activity series should look similar to the one at right. If not, you likely made a mistake and should recheck your work.

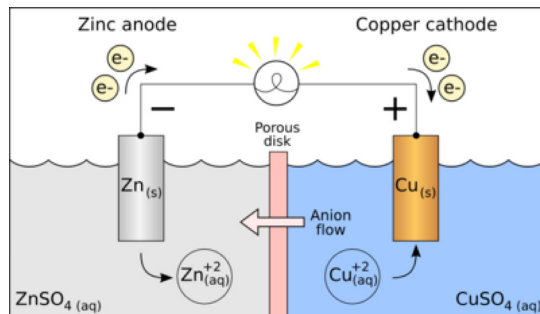
Electrochemical and Voltaic Cells Electrochemical cells results in an exchange of electrons in a redox reaction. There are two main types of electrochemical cells. A voltaic, or galvanic, cell is composed of two metals connected by a salt bridge. It uses the electron exchange to generate the current. It consists of two half-cells, each of which contains a metal solution with that metal submerged in it. The cell in which oxidation occurs is called the **anode**, and the cell in which reduction occurs is called the **cathode**. You can remember this by knowing that reduction has a "c" in it, and cathode starts with a "c". Electrons flow from the anode to the cathode. Another, more sure fire way of telling where oxidation and reduction occurs is as so: the cathode is positive (you can remember this by "cats are positive", even if they're not). Thus, electrons flow to the cathode, meaning that reduction is occurring at the cathode. This means that oxidation occurs at the anode. A porous barrier allows ions to flow from the anode compartment to the cathode compartment and vice versa, balancing the charge. The electrode compartments are called **half-cells**. Salt bridges can be used as an alternative to porous barriers.

Electrolytic Cells Electrolytic cells use a current to decompose chemical compounds. One principle use of electrolytic cells is to electroplate objects such as nails and silverware. **Coulombs** is a measure of charge. **Current** is a measure of the flow of electrons. The SI unit of current is the ampere, expressed as C/s or coulombs per second. Coulombs = amperes × seconds. Given the current run through an electrolytic cell and the time it is run, you can calculate the number of coulombs. There are 1.602E-19 coulombs in an electron. From the amount of coulombs you may calculate the number of electrons used to reduce. Say that you are electroplating copper onto a plate. Cu²⁺+2e⁻→Cu Given the number of electrons used to reduce the copper ions, you may calculate the amount of Cu electroplated onto the plate. This is applicable to any electroplating situation.

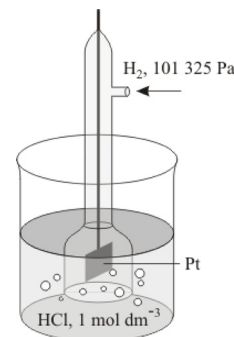
Electron Potential There are two different analogies for understanding electron potential or **voltage**. One is water. Electron potential corresponds to the water pressure. The higher the pressure, the stronger the stream that flows. Electron potential does not correspond to the strength of the stream, since different sized pipes with the same water pressure will have different strength streams. The second analogy is height. Higher electron potential corresponds to higher height. From higher height you can drop, while doing work, to lower height. Something to note is that electron potential is not absolute, it is with respect to. Standing on a 10 ft. high cliff and dropping a ball is the same as standing on the edge of a 10 ft. deep pit and dropping a ball (ignoring changes in gravity: analogies are not perfect). It is the same way with electron potential. You must define a zero before you can say what the electron potential is. Because of this it is quite possible to have negative electron potential.

Electromotive Force (emf) The **emf** of a cell, measured in volts, is the potential difference between the cathode and the anode of a cell. It tells you how much potential there is to do work. Electromotive means "causing electron motion". It is quite easy to measure emf. Take a voltmeter and touch the probes to the cathode and anode. The voltmeter will tell you what the voltage difference, or emf, is.

Standard Reduction (Half-Cell) Potentials **Reduction Potentials** tell you how much something "wants" to reduce. For example, Cu²⁺ (with a reduction reaction of Cu²⁺+2e⁻→Cu) has a higher reduction potential than Fe²⁺ (with a reduction reaction of Fe²⁺+2e⁻→Fe). This means that Cu²⁺ "wants" to reduce more than Fe²⁺. Like all potentials, reduction potentials are not absolute and have to be with respect to something.



Physical State	State Symbol
Solid	s
Liquid	l
Gas	g
Aqueous Solution	aq

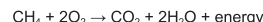


Reduction Half-Reaction	Potential(V)
F ₂ +2e ⁻ →2F ⁻	+2.87
MnO ₄ ⁻ +8H ⁺ +5e ⁻ →Mn ²⁺ +4H ₂ O	+1.51
Cl ₂ +2e ⁻ →2Cl ⁻	+1.36
Cr ₂ O ₇ ²⁻ +14H ⁺ +6e ⁻ →2Cr ³⁺ +7H ₂ O	+1.33
O ₂ +4H ⁺ +4e ⁻ →2H ₂ O	+1.23
Br ₂ +2e ⁻ →2Br ⁻	+1.06
NO ₃ ⁻ +4H ⁺ +3e ⁻ →NO+2H ₂ O	+0.96
Ag ⁺ +e ⁻ →Ag	+0.80
Fe ³⁺ +e ⁻ →Fe ²⁺	+0.77
O ₂ +2H ⁺ +2e ⁻ →H ₂ O ₂	+0.68
MnO ₄ ⁻ +2H ₂ O+3e ⁻ →MnO ₂ +4OH ⁻	+0.59

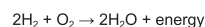
I ₂ +2e ⁻ →2I ⁻	+0.54
O ₂ +2H ₂ O+4e ⁻ →4OH ⁻	+0.40
Cu ²⁺ +2e ⁻ →Cu	+0.34
2H ⁺ +2e ⁻ →H ₂	0[defined]
Ni ²⁺ +2e ⁻ →Ni	-0.28
Fe ²⁺ +2e ⁻ →Fe	-0.44
Zn ²⁺ +2e ⁻ →Zn	-0.76
2H ₂ O+2e ⁻ →H ₂ +2OH ⁻	-0.83
Al ³⁺ +3e ⁻ →Al	-1.66
Na ⁺ +e ⁻ →Na	-2.71
Li ⁺ +e ⁻ →Li	-3.05

standard reduction potentials:

Combustion reactions are reduction-oxidation reactions (also called *redox* reactions) involving oxygen or another oxidizing agent. Combustion reactions are also exothermic reactions since they give off heat. The most common combustion reactions form carbon dioxide, water, and energy. For example, here is the combustion reaction for methane:



Combustion can also occur with nitrogen instead of carbon. There is also combustion with only hydrogen and oxygen, and this case only water forms as product.

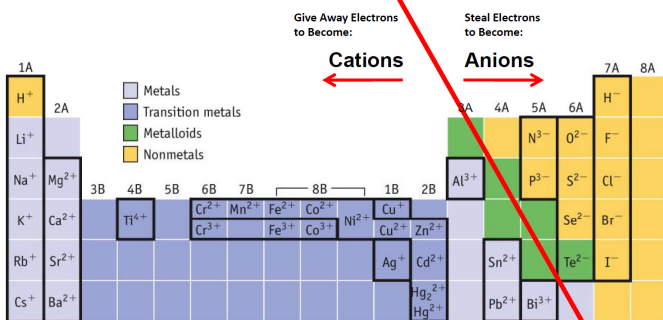


Since combustion reactions are among the most common

- 1: Split Into Half-Reactions**
- 2: Balance Elements Besides O and H**
- 3: Balance O With H₂O**
- 4: Balance H With H⁺**
- 5: Balance Charge With e⁻**
- 6: Match Numbers of Electrons**
- 7: Combine Half-Reactions**
- 8: Add Hydroxides to Both Sides**
- 9: Combine Protons And Hydroxides**
- 10: Cancel Waters if Possible**

For Groups 1, 2, and 3A:
Ionic Charge = Group Number

For Groups 5, 6, and 7A:
Ionic Charge = Group Number - 8



Common Polyatomic Ions			
C ₂ H ₃ O ₂ ⁻	acetate	OH ⁻	hydroxide
NH ₄ ⁺	ammonium	ClO ⁻	hypochlorite
CO ₃ ²⁻	carbonate	NO ₃ ⁻	nitrate
ClO ₃ ⁻	chlorate	NO ₂ ⁻	nitrite
ClO ₂ ⁻	chlorite	C ₂ O ₄ ²⁻	oxalate
CrO ₄ ²⁻	chromate	ClO ₄ ⁻	perchlorate
CN ⁻	cyanide	MnO ₄ ⁻	permanganate
Cr ₂ O ₇ ²⁻	dichromate	PO ₄ ³⁻	phosphate
HCO ₃ ⁻	bicarbonate	SO ₄ ²⁻	sulfate
HSO ₄ ⁻	bisulfate	SO ₃ ²⁻	sulfite
HSO ₃ ⁻	bisulfite		

exothermic reactions, it is a good idea to know the combustion reactions of several important compounds, or at least know how to go about finding it quickly. Since all of them have a similar form, you can guess what the products will be, which make it easier.

Some things to consider when graphing-

- Unless you have a good reason to do otherwise, the independent data goes on the x-axis while the dependent data goes on the y-axis.
- A graph must have a title. Something like "Y as a Function of X" or "Y Versus X" is usually a good choice. Just don't literally use "Y" and "X" in the title!
- Label the axes and include the units.
- The scale for each axis must be linear although the x-axis can have a different scale than the y-axis.
- Unless you have a good reason to not include it, show the origin (0,0) on the graph.
- The value of the slope needs to have appropriate units and they come from the units for the y-axis divided by the units for the x-axis.
- Unless you know otherwise, determine the number of digits for the slope by using the division rule for significant figures. My mass data has a minimum of 5 significant figures and the volume data has a minimum of four significant figures. Therefore, I've calculated the slope to four significant figures.