# Acids, Bases, \& 

Salts

## What makes an acid or a base?

Sometimes molecules break down in water, and release either an $\mathrm{H}^{+}$(hydrogen) ion or an $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$(hydroxide) ion. When a hydrogen ion is released, the solution becomes acidic. When a hydroxide ion is released, the solution becomes basic.

Example: vinegar $\left(\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COOH}\right)$ molecules placed in water will split into $\mathrm{CH}_{3} \mathrm{COO}^{-}$and $\mathrm{H}^{+}$. That hydrogen ion is the reason it is an acid.


## Acids Generate Ions

## $\mathrm{HNO}_{3}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightarrow \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}+\mathrm{NO}_{3}$



## Acids and Bases in Solution

- $\mathrm{HCl}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightarrow \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}^{+}+\mathrm{Cl}^{-}$
- NaOH in water $\rightarrow \mathrm{Na}^{+}+\mathrm{OH}^{-}$
- $\mathrm{NaOH}+\mathrm{HCl} \rightarrow \mathrm{NaCl}+\mathrm{HOH}$
- $\mathrm{NH}_{3}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O} \rightarrow \mathrm{NH}_{4}^{+}+\mathrm{OH}^{-}$


## pH

Scientists use something called the $\mathbf{~ p H}$ scale to measure how acidic or basic a liquid is. pH measures concentrations of hydrogen ions ( $\mathrm{H}^{+}$) and hydroxide ions ( $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$) on a scale from 0 to 14. Distilled water is 7 (right in the middle). Acids are found between 0 and 7. Bases are from 7 to 14.

## pH of Common Substances



## Properties of Acids

- pH less than 7
- Tastes sour
- Neutralizes bases
- Forms $\mathrm{H}^{+}$ions in solution
- Corrosive-reacts with most metals to form hydrogen gas
- Good conductors of electricity


## Properties of Bases

- pH greater than 7
- Taste bitter
- Neutralizes acids
- Usually forms $\mathrm{OH}^{-}$ions in solution
- Dissolves fats and oils (corrosive)
- Feels slippery


## Common Acids

- HCl - hydrochloric- stomach acid
- $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO}_{4}$ - sulfuric acid - car batteries

- $\mathrm{HNO}_{3}$ - nitric acid - explosives
- $\mathrm{HC}_{2} \mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{O}_{2}$ - acetic acid - vinegar
- $\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{CO}_{3}$-carbonic acid - sodas
- $\mathrm{H}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$ - phosphoric acid -artificial flavorings


## Common Bases

- NaOH - sodium hydroxide (LYE) soaps, drain cleaner
- $\mathrm{Mg}(\mathrm{OH})_{2}$ - magnesium hydroxide-antacids
- $\mathrm{Al}(\mathrm{OH})_{3}$-aluminum hydroxide-antacids, deodorants
- $\mathrm{NH}_{4} \mathrm{OH}$-ammonium hydroxide- "ammonia"



## What is a SALT?

- A salt is a neutral substance produced from the reaction of an acid and a base.
- Composed of the negative ion of an acid and the positive ion of a base.
- One of the products of a Neutralization Reaction
- Examples: $\mathrm{KCl}, \mathrm{MgSO}_{4}, \mathrm{Na}_{3} \mathrm{PO}_{4}$



## Neutralization Reaction

- A neutralization reaction is the reaction of an acid with a base to produce salt and water.
- Example
$\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{SO} 4+\mathrm{NaOH} \rightarrow \mathrm{NaHSO}_{4}+\mathrm{H}_{2} \mathrm{O}$

