# Acids, Bases, &

Salts



#### What makes an acid or a base?

Sometimes molecules break down in water, and release either an H<sup>+</sup> (hydrogen) ion or an OH<sup>-</sup> (hydroxide) ion. When a hydrogen ion is released, the solution becomes acidic. When a hydroxide ion is released, the solution becomes basic.

Example: vinegar (CH<sub>3</sub>COOH) molecules placed in water will split into  $CH_3COO^-$  and  $H^+$ . That hydrogen ion is the reason it is an acid.



## Acids Generate Ions

# $HNO_3 + H_2O \rightarrow H_3O^+ + NO_3$



• HCl + H<sub>2</sub>0  $\rightarrow$  H<sub>3</sub>O + + Cl<sup>-</sup>

• NaOH in water  $\rightarrow$  Na<sup>+</sup> + OH<sup>-</sup>

• NaOH + HC1  $\rightarrow$  NaC1 + HOH

•  $NH_3 + H_20 \rightarrow NH_4^+ + OH^-$ 

## pH

Scientists use something called the **pH** scale to measure how acidic or basic a liquid is. pH measures concentrations of hydrogen ions (H<sup>+</sup>) and hydroxide ions ( $OH^{-}$ ) 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 H<sup>+</sup> 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 OH ions in solution
- Dissolves fats and oils (corrosive)
- Feels slippery

### Common Acids

- HCl- hydrochloric- stomach acid
- $H_2SO_4$  sulfuric acid car batteries
- HNO<sub>3</sub> nitric acid explosives
- $HC_2H_3O_2$  acetic acid vinegar
- $H_2CO_3$ -carbonic acid sodas













#### Common Bases

- NaOH- sodium hydroxide (LYE) soaps, drain cleaner
- Mg (OH)<sub>2</sub> magnesium hydroxide-antacids
- Al(OH)<sub>3</sub>-aluminum hydroxide-antacids, deodorants
- NH<sub>4</sub>OH-ammonium hydroxide- "ammonia"





# Household Cleaners

## 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: KCl, MgSO<sub>4</sub>, Na<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>







#### **Neutralization Reaction**

- A neutralization reaction is the reaction of an acid with a base to produce salt and water.
- Example

 $H_2SO4 + NaOH \rightarrow NaHSO_4 + H_2O$