









## LAB ACTIVITY

## Writing Formulas for Binary Compounds

Objectives: Students will be able to write chemical formulas for binary compounds.

Materials: Scissors

## **Procedure:**

1. Cut out the shapes on the pages provided and throw out any scrap paper in the garbage can.

2. Copy the information on the shapes on to the tables below. The first ones have been done for you.

Oxidation Numbers of Some Elements			
+1	+2	+3	
Hydrogen, H <sup>+1</sup>			
-1	-2	-3	

Polyatomic Ions and Their Charges				
+1	-1	-2	-3	
Ammonium, NH <sub>4</sub> <sup>+1</sup>				

3. Use the rules for writing *binary compounds* to write formulas below.

Rules for Writing Formulas for Binary Compounds	Rules for Naming Binary Compounds
1. The metal (+oxidation#) is written first.	1. The metal (+oxidation#) is written first.
2. The nonmetal (-oxidation#) is written second.	2. The nonmetal (-oxidation#) is written second.
3. The sum of the oxidation must add to zero.	3. Write the first syllable of the nonmetal, then add "ide."

Potassium and Iodine

Calcium and Fluorine

4. Use the tables on the previous page to name the following binary compounds.

LiCl	FeO		
CuF	$H_2S$		
$Mg_3P_2$	Ag <sub>2</sub> S		
5. Use the tables on the previous page and the paper cards to write formulas for the following compounds. <i>These aren't binary compounds since they contain polyatomic ions</i> .			
Ammonium and Oxygen	Silver and Nitrate		
Sodium and Hydroxide	Copper (II) and Sulfate		
Calcium and Acetate	Aluminum and Nitrate		
6. Use the tables on the previous page and the paper cards to Name the following compounds. <i>These aren't binary compounds since they contain polyatomic ions. The rules are the same except that the polyatomic ions don't change their names.</i>			
AgNO <sub>3</sub>	NH <sub>4</sub> Br		
$K_2SO_4$	MgCO <sub>3</sub>		

Ag<sub>3</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>

 $(NH_4)_2SO_4$ 

Questions:

1. What is special about binary compounds?\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why are compounds that contain polyatomic ions not binary compounds?