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## Formal charge practice worksheet with answers

Looking at the structure of a molecule can help us understand or predict the behavior of that compound. One of the tools we will eventually use to understand reactivity is formal loading. This is because reactivity has to do with the reorganization of electrons between atoms. The new chemical bonds are formed by sharing electrons. Old chemical bonds break when one atom removes binding electrons from another atom. Chemical reactions occur through electron attraction and donation The formal charge can help us understand the behavior of carbon monoxide, CO. When exposed to transitional metal cations such as iron in hemoglobin (Fe<sup>2+</sup>), carbon is attracted and joined to metal. In the case of hemoglobin, because carbon monoxide binds very strongly to iron, CO blocks the position where oxygen would normally bind and carbon monoxide poisoning occurs. The formal charge can help us predict how a molecule behaves atoms with positive formal charges often attract electron atoms with negative formal charges often donating electrons Why does the molecule behave this way? There are actually a number of reasons. However, the fact that carbon is attracted to a cation of metal raises the question: Is carbon an anion? Yes, in a sense. In a Lewis structure of the compound, carbon has a formal negative load. You'll see why below. Formal charges are an important accounting device we use in Lewis' structures. They tell us if one atom is donating additional electrons to another to give it an octet. If an atom needs to donate more electrons than normal for everyone to get an octet, it will have a positive formal charge. If an atom donates fewer electrons than normal and everyone still has an octet, it must be receiving additional electrons from somewhere else. You'll have a negative formal charge. The formal charge is often present if the atom does not have its usual number of bond valence rules can act as flags to alert you that formal charges are present to help us think of formal charges, let's take a look at some small molecules that contain multiple carbon-oxygen bonds but are slightly different from each other. Formaldehyde (CH<sub>2</sub>O) is a chemical used to preserve tissues; you may be familiar with your anatomy lab smell. Carbon monoxide is the result of burning fossil fuels; it is also an important industrial chemical used in the manufacture of detergents. Carbonate is an anion found in many forms. Calcium carbonate is found in limestone and chalk, Example. Look at the formaldehyde structure. Oxygen has a normal valence of two, and has two formaldehyde bonds, so there is no formal charge in oxygen. Carbon has a normal valence of four, and has four links here. There is no formal charge on carbon. There are no formal charges on hydrogens either. Carbon monoxide has a which is very similar to formaldehyde. However, it has no hydrogens. With ten electrons in total, the only way to get an octet in both atoms is to make three bonds between carbon and oxygen. Oxygen has normal valence two, but here it is making three links. He's sharing an extra pair of his carbon electrons to make that third link. If you're sharing a couple of electrons, we can think about keeping one for yourself and giving the other carbon. Since it gives one of its electrons to carbon, it has formal charge +1. Carbon has a normal four valence, but here it is only making three links, even though it has an octet. How did you get an octet with only three bonuses? It has an extra electron from somewhere (oxygen). He's charged formally -1. Note that in general the carbon monoxide molecule is neutral. Oxygen has an additional charge and carbon has a less load. These charges are canceled to give a neutral molecule in general. What we're really doing when we assign formal charge is comparing how many electrons the atom brought from the periodic table to how many it has now. If the atom brought four electrons of its own and is now sharing eight, things are the same. He brought four to share and got four of his neighbors in a uniform trade. If you only brought three of your own and are now sharing eight, you have more electrons than you gave, and you will have a negative charge. To determine the formal charge: check the number of electrons in the atom in the periodic table check the number of electrons fully owned by the atom in the molecule; This is different from looking for a totally owned octet electrons include any electron in solitary pairs, since they completely belong to a totally owned atom electrons also include half of the electrons in the bonds to the atom, as it is sharing each of those pairs with other atoms. Compare the number of totally owned valence electrons in the periodic table with those that are totally owned by the atom in the molecule. if the number of totally owned electrons in the atom in the molecule is greater than in the periodic table, the atom has a negative charge if the number of totally owned electrons in the atom in the molecule is less than in the periodic table, the atom has a positive charge the formal charge is additive: if the atom has two additional electrons in the molecule, has a load of two less. If it's two short, it's got a two more charge. Remember, the electron count for determining an octet counts all bonding electrons and not adhering equally. It is done simply to determine if the atom has a noble gas configuration at this time. The electron count to determine the formal charge is done to track who has given to whom by making the molecule. If, upon reaching an octet, atoms have received more electrons than they have given, their electron/proton ratio has changed, and they are charged. Loaded. IM5.1 Draw Lewis or Kekule structures for the following molecules, remembering to include formal loads, if any (and note that some of these molecules are ions): a) NO+ b) CN- c) CH<sub>3</sub>O- d) CH<sub>3</sub>+ e) HNO<sub>3</sub> f) CH<sub>3</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>- PROBLEM IM5.2. Given the following structures, assign the missing formal charges. IM5.3 problem. With those structures below, draw the missing electrons, if any. IM5.4 problem. Label all atoms in the following compounds with the correct non-zero formal charge. IM5.5 problem. Provide structures for the following chlorine oxoanions (anions with oxygens attached to another atom): a) hypochlorite, ClO- b) chlorite, ClO<sub>2</sub>- c) chlorate, ClO<sub>3</sub>- d) perchlorate, ClO<sub>4</sub>- Problem IM5.6. Provide structures for the following sulphur oxoanions: a) sulphite, SO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> b) sulfate, SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup> c) thiosulphate, disulfate S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> d), S<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub><sup>2-</sup> e) persulfate or peroxomonosulfate, SO<sub>5</sub><sup>2-</sup> Problem IM5.6. Provide structures for the following phosphorus oxoanions: a) phosphate, PO<sub>4</sub><sup>3-</sup> b) phosphite, HPO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> c) hypophosphite, H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>2</sub><sup>-</sup>. Note that hydrogen atoms in some phosphorus oxoanions are attached to the phosphorus atom. In order to continue enjoying our site, we ask you to confirm your identity as a human. Thank you very much for your cooperation. Questions 1 through 8 refer to the group of structures shown on the left. Enter the appropriate letters from A to K in each answer box. If no structure conforms to the property, type the letter X. Do not enter superfluous characters, as they will be counted as incorrect responses. This script was written by William Reusch, Department of Chemistry, Michigan State University. Please send feedback and corrections to [whreusch@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:whreusch@pilot.msu.edu). [whreusch@pilot.msu.edu](mailto:whreusch@pilot.msu.edu).

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