

Reactivity of Metals and Displacement Reactions

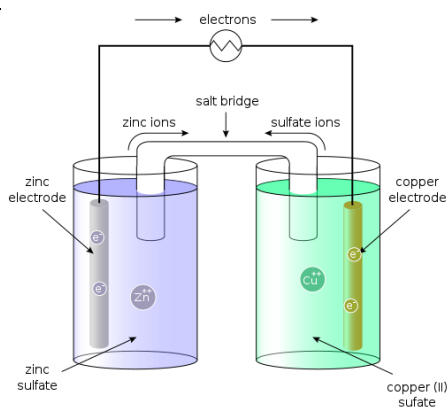
- the reactivity of a metal depends on how easily it loses electrons; the more easily it loses electrons, the more reactive it is
- the most reactive metals are those in Group 1, followed by those in Group 2; these metals get more reactive as you go down the group
- when metals react with water and acids, the metal is oxidized and H is reduced:
eg $2\text{Na} + 2\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow 2\text{NaOH} + \text{H}_2$
eg $\text{Mg} + 2\text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{MgCl}_2 + \text{H}_2$
- metals can displace less reactive metals from their compounds; the more reactive metal is oxidized and the less reactive metal is reduced
eg $\text{Zn} + \text{CuCl}_2 \rightarrow \text{ZnCl}_2 + \text{Cu}$
(Zn (oxidized) is more reactive than Cu (reduced))
- metals which are less reactive than carbon can be extracted from their oxides by heating with carbon
eg $\text{ZnO} + \text{C} \rightarrow \text{Zn} + \text{CO}$ (C is more reactive than Zn)
- metals which are more reactive than carbon cannot be extracted from their oxides like this

Reactivity Series of Metals (with C and H added)

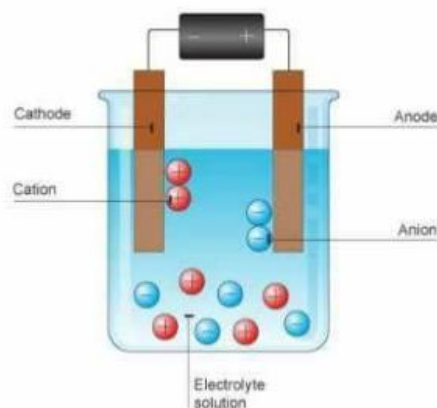
K (explosive reaction with water)
Na (explosive reaction with water)
Ca (steady reaction with water)
Mg (fast reaction with acids)
Al (anomalously slow - forms a stable oxide layer)
C
Zn (steady reaction with acids)
Fe (slow reaction with acids)
Sn (very slow reaction with acids)
Pb (very slow reaction with acids)
H
Cu (no reaction with acids)
Ag (no reaction with acids)
Au (no reaction with acids)

Electrochemical Cells

- there are two types of electrolytic cell: **galvanic cells** and **electrolytic cells**
- a **galvanic cell** is a device which uses a redox reaction to create electricity
- an **electrolytic cell** is a device which uses electricity to force a redox reaction to take place
- both cell types contain conducting rods (electrodes) immersed in a liquid which contains ions (electrolyte)
- reduction always takes place at the **cathode** and oxidation takes place at the **anode**



a typical galvanic cell
 reduction takes place in the cathodic half-cell
 oxidation takes place in the anodic half-cell
 electrons move from the (-) anode to the (+) cathode



a typical electrolytic cell
 cations move to the (-) cathode and are reduced
 anions move to the (+) anode and are oxidised

Type	Galvanic	electrolytic
purpose	all batteries are made from galvanic cells	- to extract reactive metals from their ores - to make various chemicals - electroplating
energy change	chemical potential → electrical	electrical → chemical potential
terminals	cathode (reduction) is +ve anode (oxidation) is -ve	cathode (reduction) is -ve anode (oxidation) is +ve
chemical reaction	- can be any redox reaction - the simplest cells involve metal displacement reactions; the more reactive metal is oxidised and the less reactive metal is reduced	- in molten electrolytes, the compound is separated into its elements - in aqueous solutions, either the ionic compound or water can be separated into its elements
visible changes	(simple cells only) - anode gets smaller; anodic solution gets more concentrated - cathode gets bigger; cathodic solution gets less concentrated	- cations move to the cathode and are reduced; a metal or hydrogen is produced - anions move to the anode and are oxidised; a halogen or oxygen is produced

- Useful galvanic cells include: lead-acid cell, alkali cell, lithium-ion cell
- Some galvanic cells can be recharged
 - electricity is forced through the cell in the opposite direction, reversing the chemical reaction
 - during this process the galvanic cell is being converted into an electrolytic cell
 - if the reverse reaction can't take place the cell cannot be recharged