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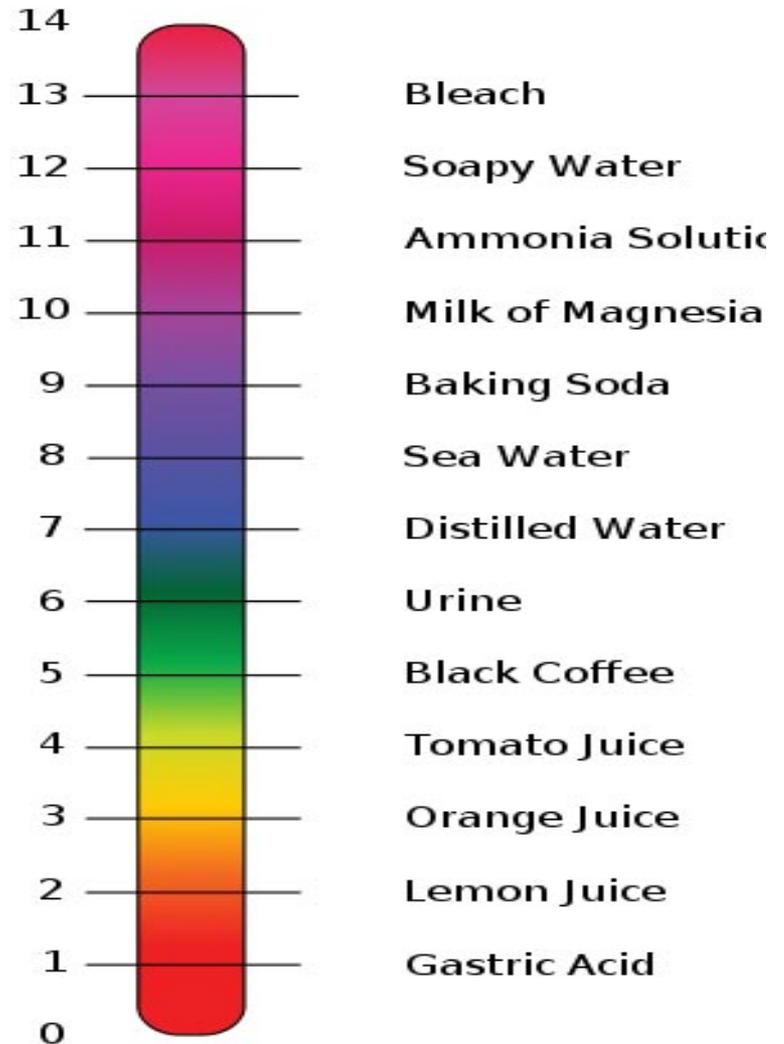
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# Acids, Bases & Buffers

Importance of  
The pH Scale  
in Biology



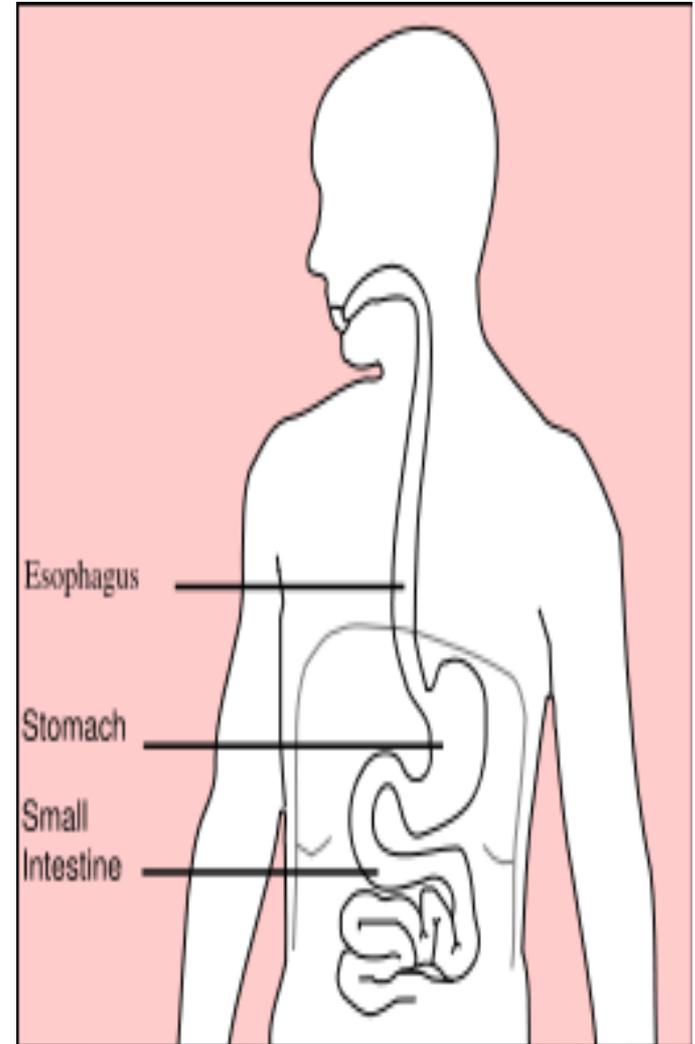
# Everyday Science

**Q:** *Where is the most acidic area of your body?*

**Q:** *What would be the purpose of having acidic gastric juices in the stomach?*

## **WATCH THIS!**

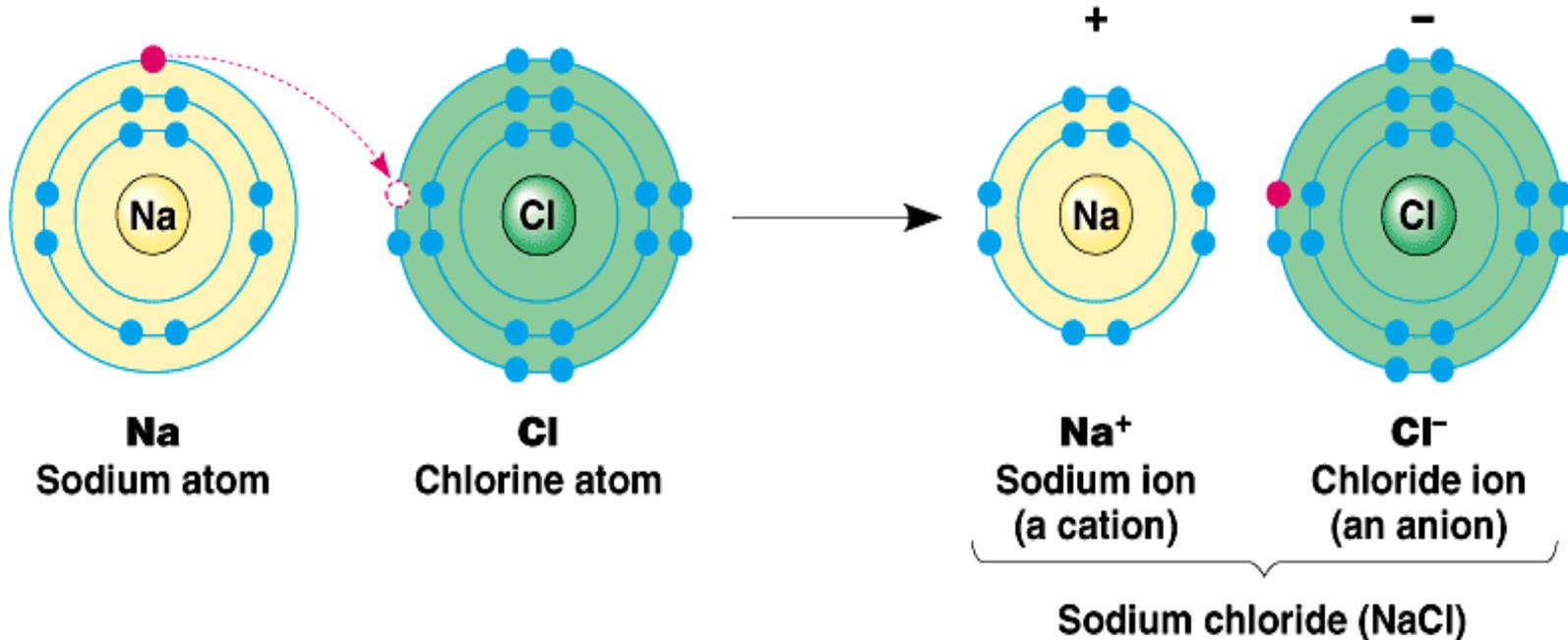
Ever wonder  
how corrosive  
human stomach  
acid is?



# Ionic Bonds

Involves transfer of electrons between two atoms.

*Found mainly ... inorganic compounds.*



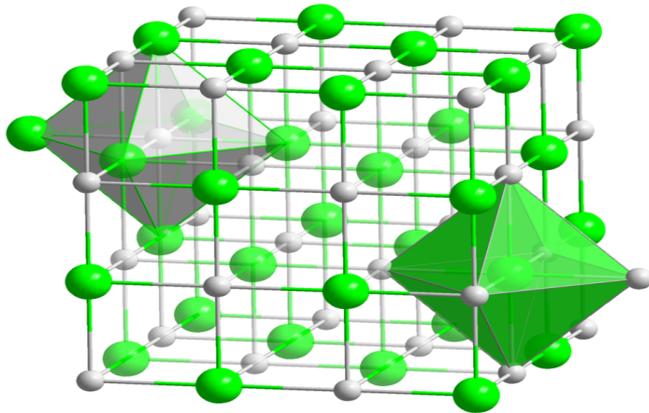
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**Ion** = an atom or group of atoms which have lost or gained one or more electrons, making them negatively or positively charged.

**Q:** *What are positively charged ions (+) called?*

**Q:** *What are negatively charged ions (-) called?*

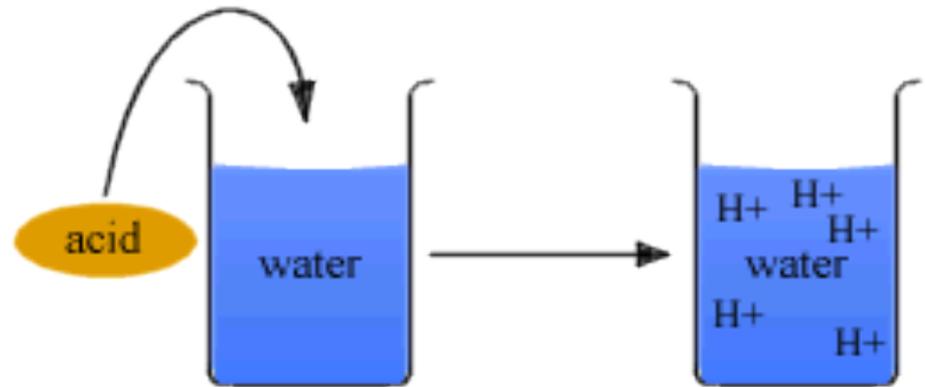
# Ionic compounds are made of oppositely charged ions



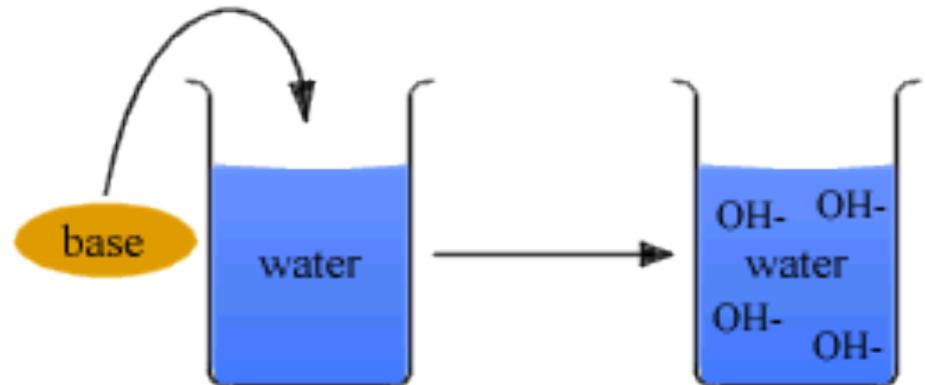
- Ionic Bonds are atoms held together by attraction between a (+) and a (-) ion
- **Compound is neutral overall**, but still charged on the inside.
- Makes solid crystals.

# Ions: Acids & Bases

An **acid** is any ionic compound that releases hydrogen \_\_\_\_\_ ( $H^+$ ) in solution.

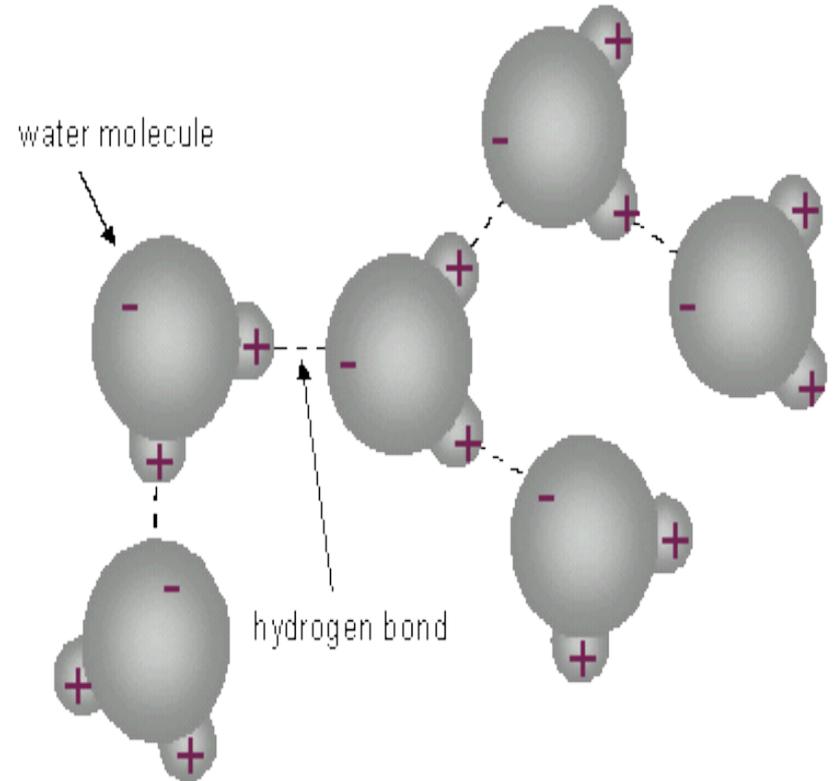
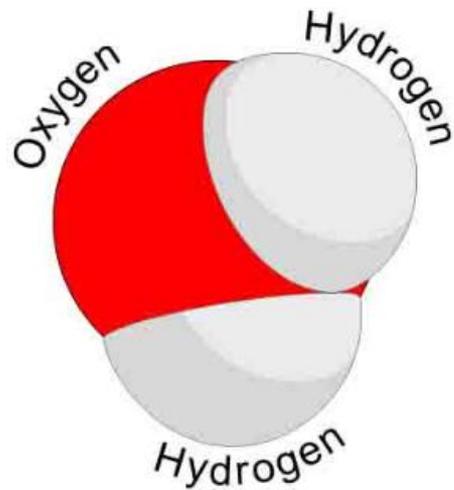


A **base** is any ionic compound that releases hydroxide \_\_\_\_\_ ( $-OH$ ) in solution.

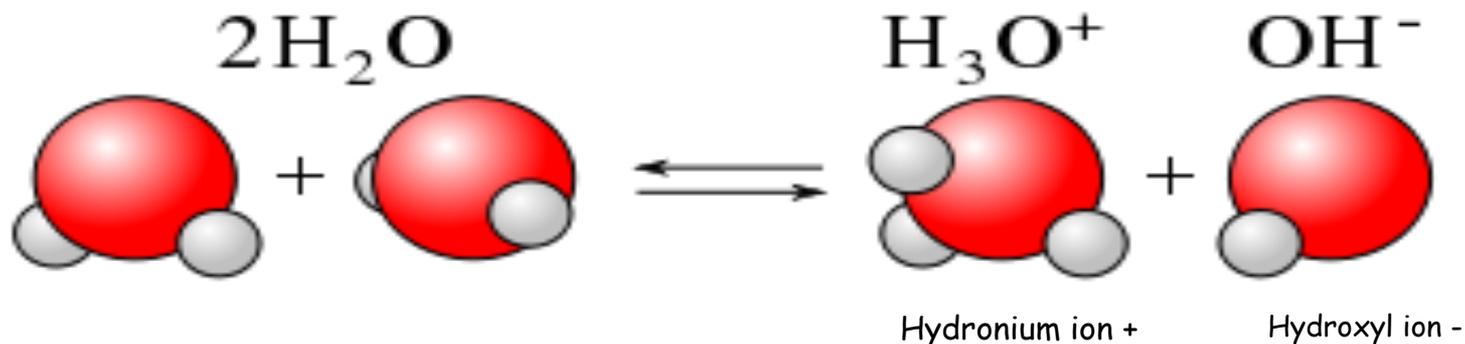


Another important characteristic of water...

# Water can form acids and bases



# Dissociation of Water



Neutral water has equal amounts of  $\text{H}^+$  and  $\text{OH}^-$

Acids: Excess of  $\text{H}^+$  in aqueous solution

Bases: Excess of  $\text{OH}^-$  in aqueous solution

Acids & bases neutralize each other.

# Measurements of Acidity & Alkalinity (pH)

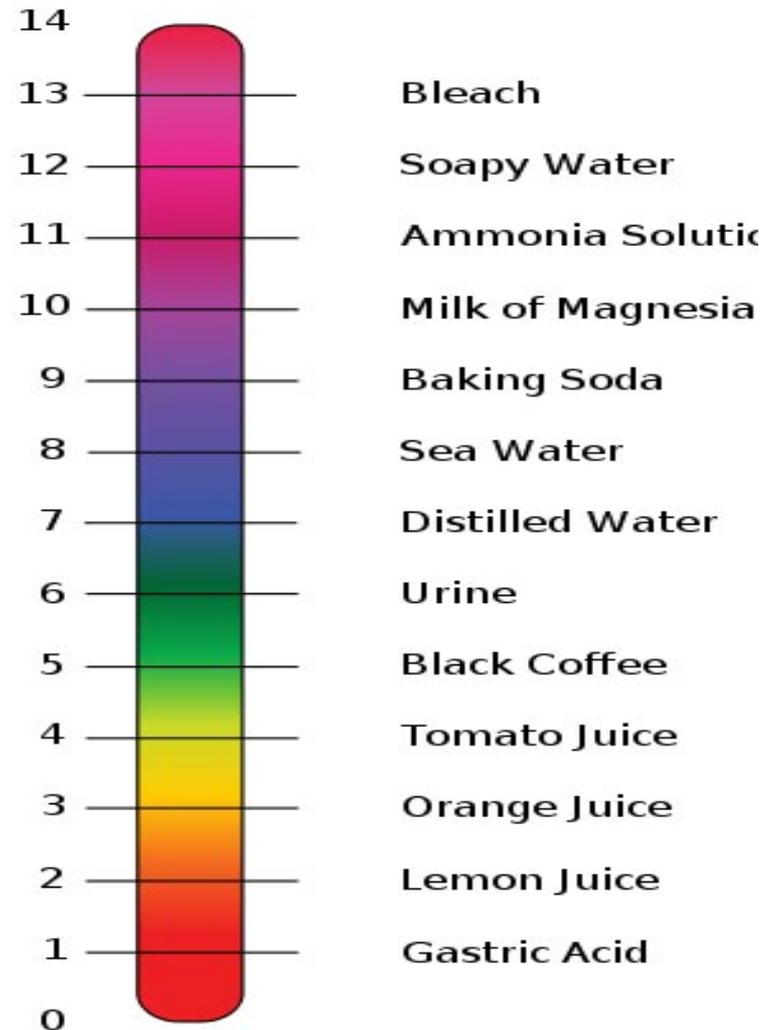
*Acidity of a solution* > measured by concentration of hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) vs. hydroxyl ions ( $OH^-$ ).

pH ranges: 0 (very acidic) to 14 (very basic).

pH scale is logarithmic.

Change in just one unit of scale = tenfold change in  $H^+$  concentration.

If concentration of  $H^+ = OH^-$  ... neutral.



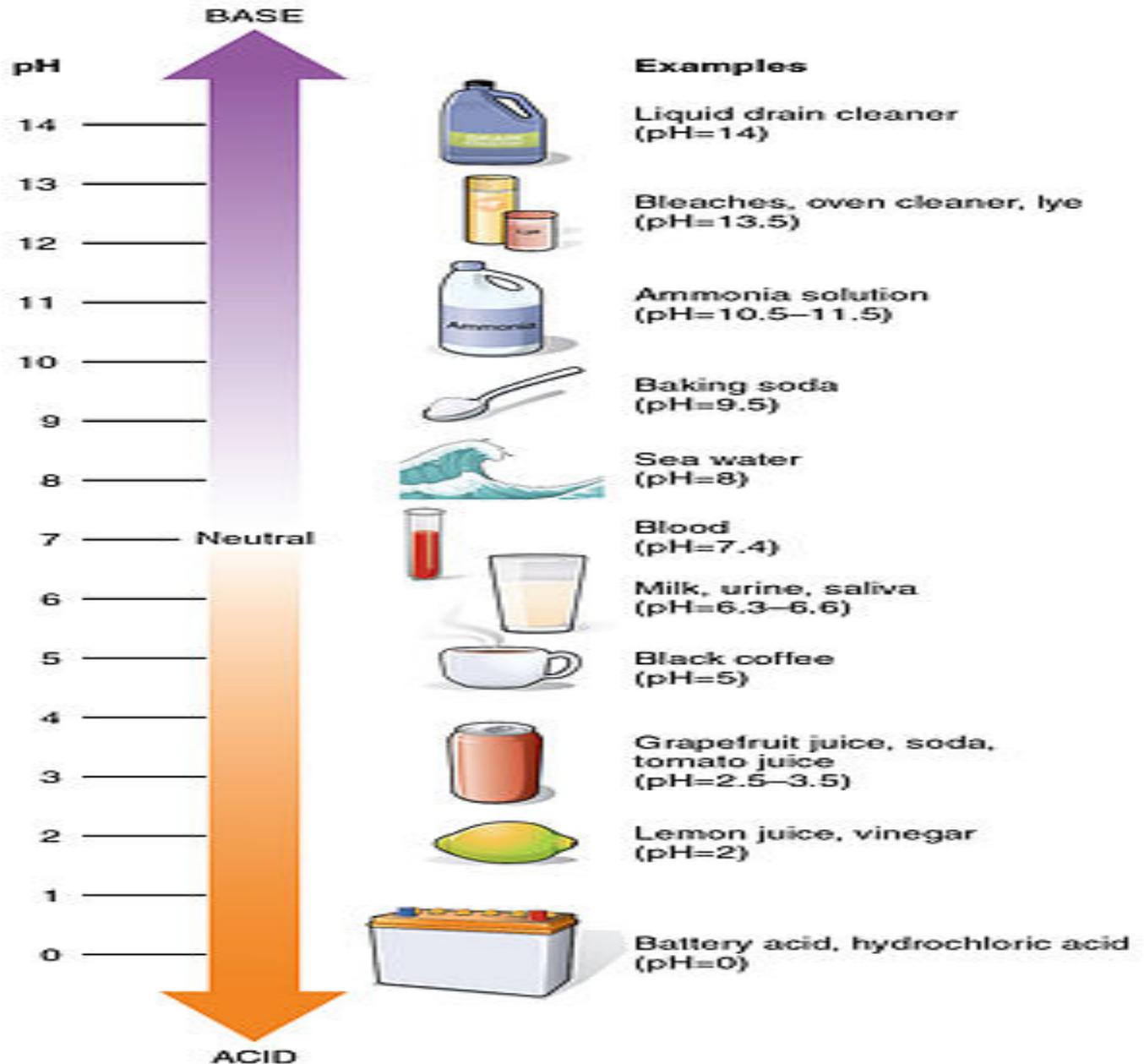
# pH scale is logarithmic

Table 1. Correlation of pH values and Hydronium ion concentrations

pH	Hydronium ion concentration (moles/L)
1	.1 (1 × 10 <sup>-1</sup> )
2	.01 (1 × 10 <sup>-2</sup> )
3	.001 (1 × 10 <sup>-3</sup> )
4	.0001 (1 × 10 <sup>-4</sup> )
5	.00001 (1 × 10 <sup>-5</sup> )
6	.000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-6</sup> )
7	.0000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-7</sup> )
8	.00000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-8</sup> )
9	.000000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-9</sup> )
10	.0000000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-10</sup> )
11	.00000000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-11</sup> )
12	.000000000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-12</sup> )
13	.0000000000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-13</sup> )
14	.00000000000001 (1 × 10 <sup>-14</sup> )

Change in  
just one unit  
of scale  
= tenfold  
change in H<sup>+</sup>  
concentration

# More Examples of pH from Daily Life



# Ions & Acids

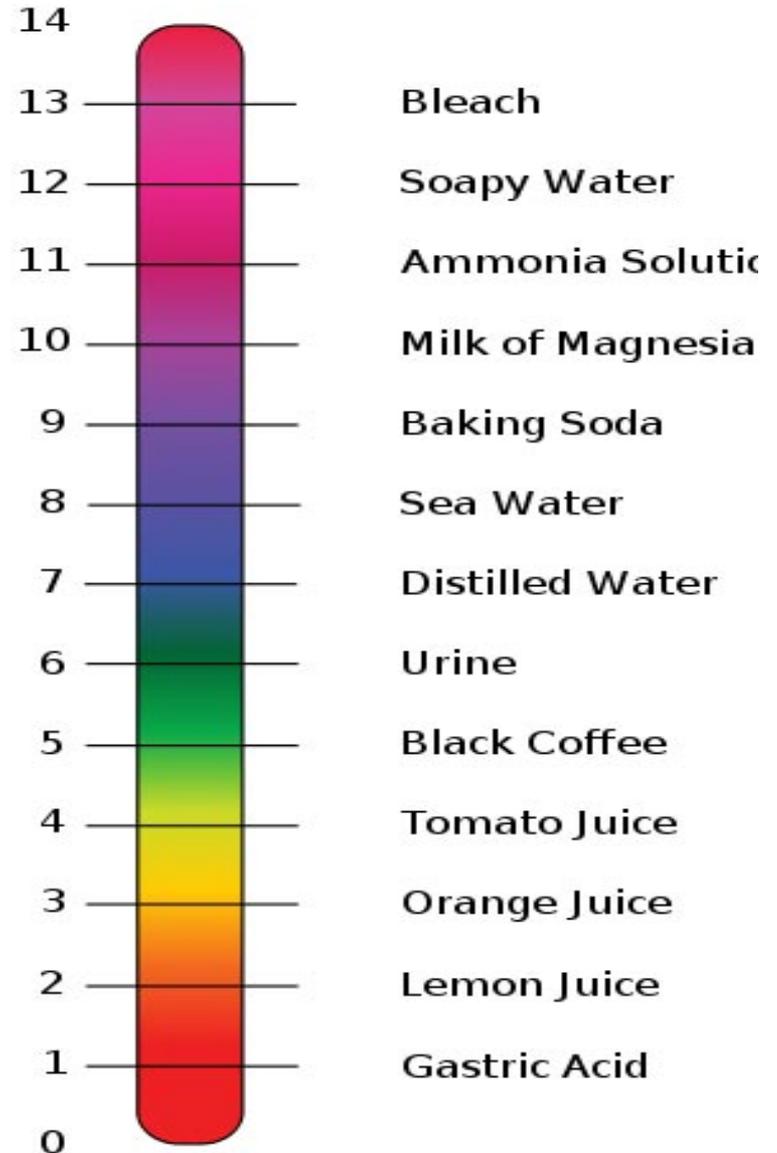
An **acid** is any ionic compound that releases hydrogen ions ( $H^+$ ) in solution.

Weak acids have a sour taste.

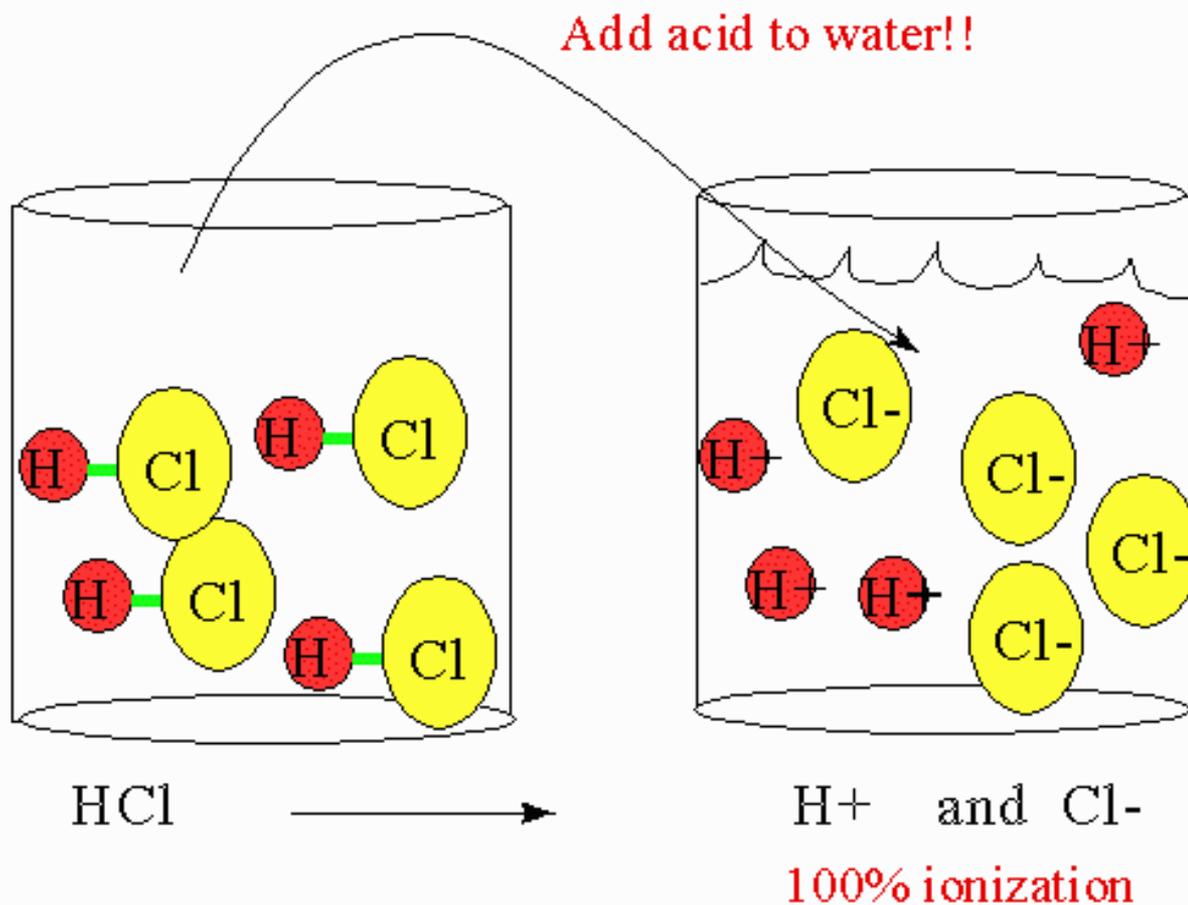
Strong acids are highly corrosive (So don't go around taste-testing acids.)

## Examples:

- **Ascorbic acid** ( $C_6H_8O_6$ , Vitamin C)
- **Citric acid** ( $C_6H_8O_7$ , a weak organic acid in citrus fruits)
- **Phosphoric acid** ( $H_3PO_4$ , in pop...this stuff is also used to remove rust...hmmm)

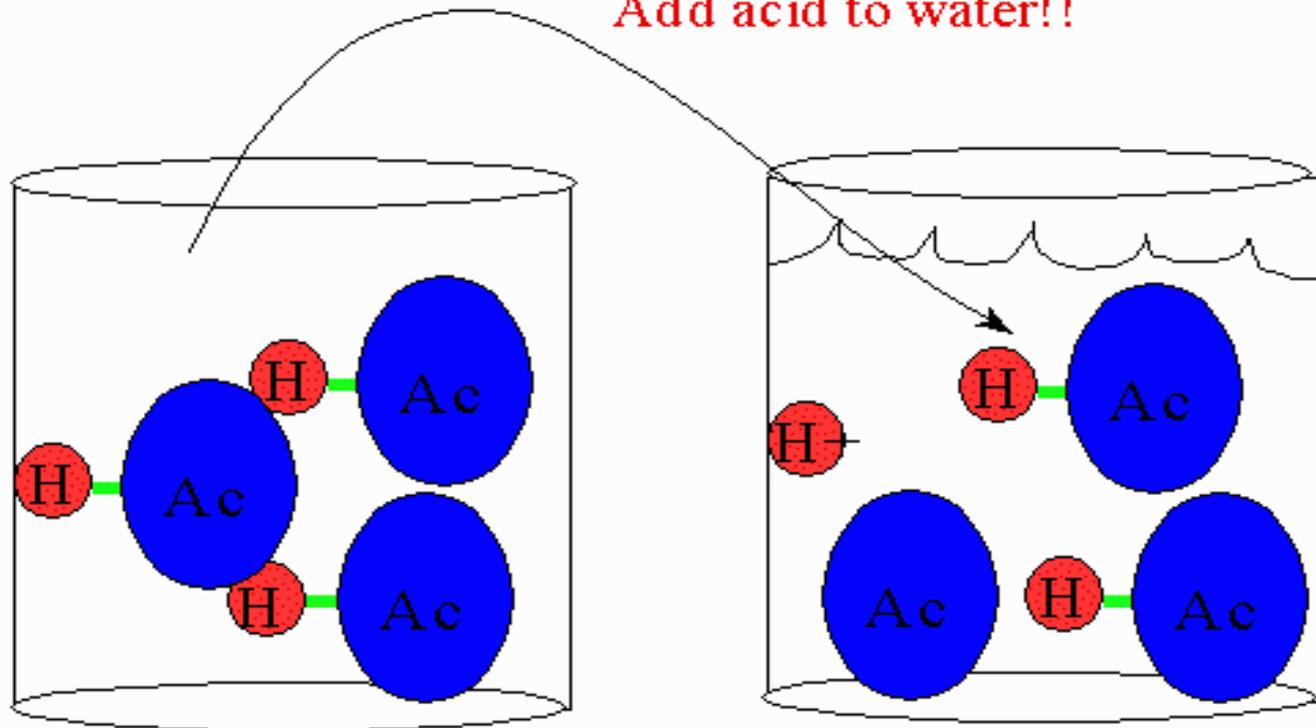


Strong acids completely dissociate in water.



Weak acids DO NOT completely dissociate in water.

Add acid to water!!



HAc

HAc = acetic acid =  $\text{H}-\text{O}-\overset{\text{O}}{\parallel}{\text{C}}-\text{CH}_3$

H<sup>+</sup> and Ac and HAc

partial ionization

# Ions & Bases

A **base** is an ionic compound that releases hydroxyl ions ( $\text{OH}^-$ ) in solution.

Bases are also called **alkaline** substances.

Some general properties of bases include:

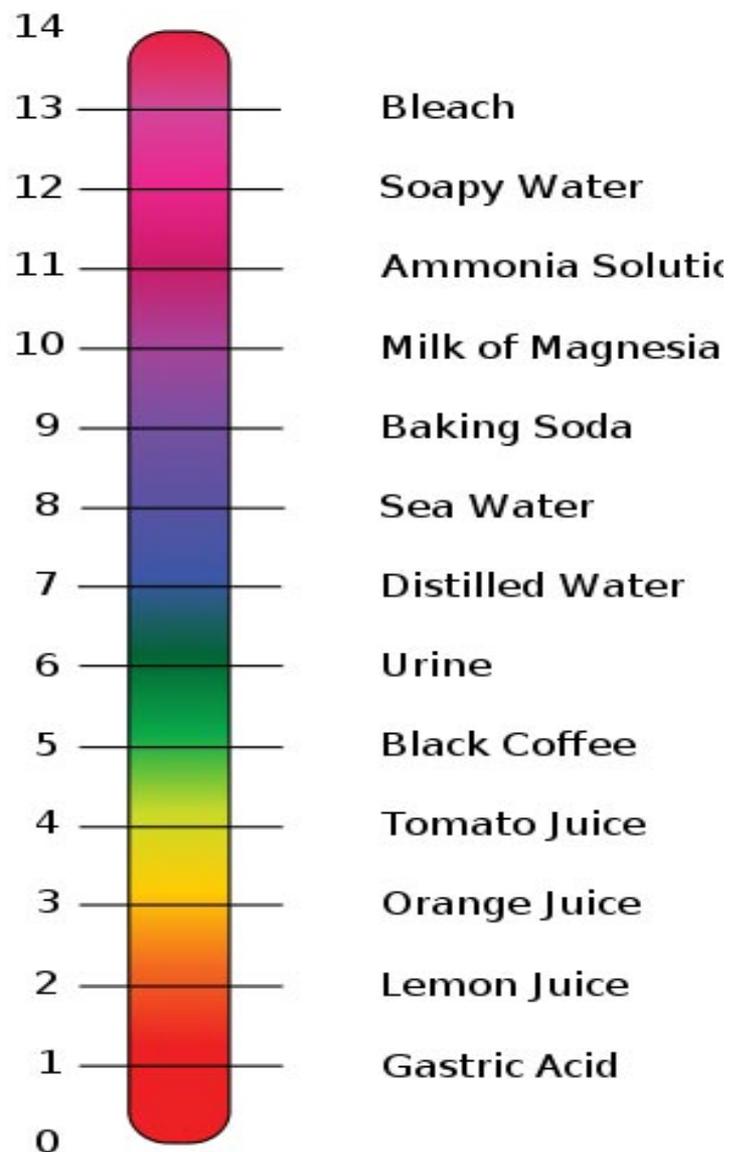
**Taste:** Bitter taste (opposed to sour taste of acids and sweetness of aldehydes and ketones).

**Touch:** Slimy or soapy feel on fingers.

**Reactivity:** Strong bases are caustic on organic matter, react violently with acidic substances.

## Examples:

- **Sodium hydroxide**,  $\text{NaOH}$ , of lye or caustic soda used in oven cleaners.
- **Magnesium hydroxide**,  $\text{Mg}(\text{OH})_2$ , also known as milk of magnesia, a weak base used in antacids and laxatives.



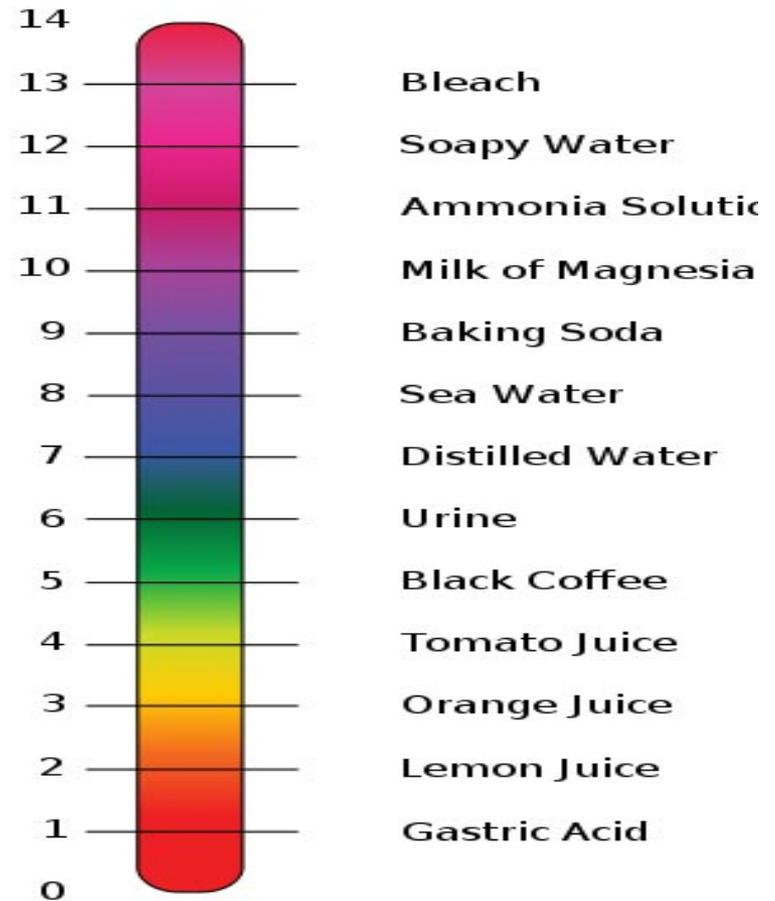
# Acid/Base Balance in Biology

pH balance is important to homeostasis of organisms.

Homeostasis = tendency of the body to maintain a balanced internal environment, even when faced with external changes. Such as the body's ability to maintain an internal temperature around 98.6 degrees F, whatever the temperature outside.

## Examples:

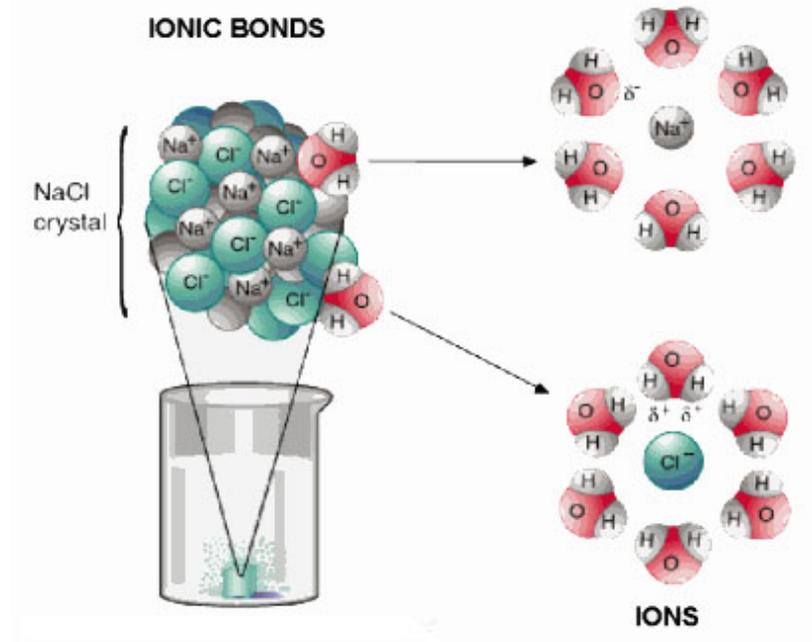
- Digestion needs acidic environment (pH 2-3)
- Urine is slightly acidic
- Blood must stay in neutral range near 7.35 to 7.45



[Acids, Bases & You](#),  
and in-depth YouTube  
video.

# Ions & Salts

- Compounds that dissociate in water and produce cations other than  $H^+$  and anions other than  $OH^-$  are called **salts**.
- The most familiar salt is **sodium chloride**, the principal component of **common table salt**.
- **Other examples of salts:**  
Baking soda ( $NaHCO_3$ )  
Epsom Salts ( $MgSO_4$ )

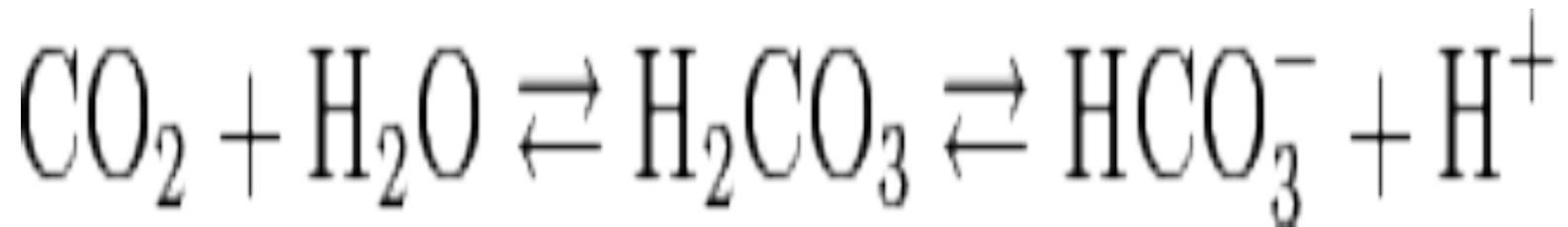


# Salts: The Role of Buffers

- Certain salts, called **buffers**, can combine with excess hydrogen ( $H^+$ ) or hydroxide ( $OH^-$ ) ions.
- Produce substances less acidic or alkaline.
- Act like a chemical sponge to soak up excess acid or base, keep pH constant.
- Buffers can be "used up". Once used up, no longer help regulate pH.
- Buffers are vital to maintaining pH in organisms.
- **Example:**  
*Antacids are buffers made of the salt calcium carbonate ( $CaCO_3$ ).*



# Bicarbonate Buffer system is important in maintaining proper **blood pH**

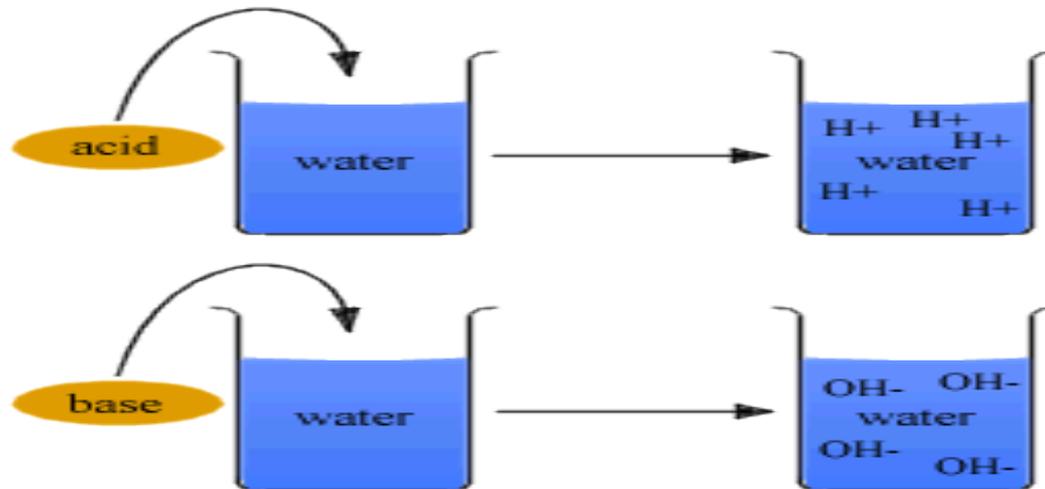


## Videos:

1. [Bicarbonate Buffer System & pH imbalances](#)
2. [Bicarbonate Buffer System](#) from John Wiley

# REVIEW!

## Interactive animated lessons on pH: Acids & Bases and Buffers



Tools that can be used to measure pH:

# Litmus Paper



- Litmus paper comes in two colors, red or blue.
- Acidic substances turn blue litmus paper red.
- Basic (alkaline) substances turn red litmus paper blue.

Tools that can be used to measure pH:

# Hydrion Paper



- Hydrion paper is used to measure pH to the nearest whole number.
- These "dip sticks" have colored squares (indicators) that change color in the presence of specific pH ranges.
- You can determine the pH value to the nearest whole number by matching the colors on the key to the hydrion paper after you dip it into a substance and wait a few seconds.

Tools that can be used to measure pH:

# pH Meter



- A pH meter can be used to measure pH to the nearest tenth (0.1) or hundredth (0.01) depending on the instrument.
- pH meters must be calibrated in pH 7 buffer solution before you can use them to measure pH.
- The meter should be rinsed in water after each use and kept in water when not in use.

**Q:** Which of the three pH measuring tools do you think is most accurate?

# Confused?

Here are some links to fun resources that further explain Chemistry:

- [Acids & Bases Are Everywhere](#) from Chem4Kids website by Rader.
- [Acid & Bases, an Introduction](#) by Vision Learning
- [Acids, Bases & You](#), and in-depth YouTube video.
- [Buffer System](#) YouTube video.
- [Bicarbonate Buffer System & pH imbalances](#) YouTube video.

(You must be in PPT slideshow view to click on links.)

# Smart Links

