

Key points to learn

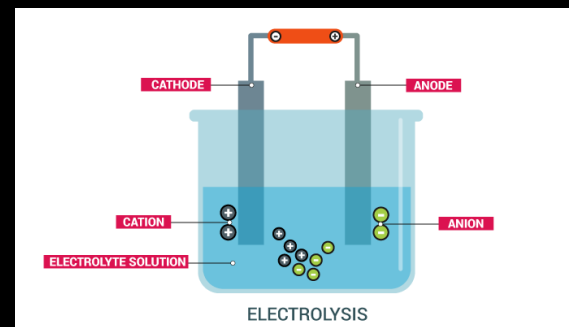
1. What is electrolysis ?	Electrolysis breaks down compounds into different elements using electricity that passes through a molten or aqueous ionic compound.
2. Electrodes	Electrodes are made out of graphite or platinum and they are inert (so they don't react with the elements)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cathode: which is negative (attracts positive cations) • Anode: which is positive (attracts negative anions)
3. Electrolysis of molten compounds	An ionic compound can conduct electricity when its molten or liquid because it has free moving electrons.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The product at the cathode will be a metal • The product at the anode will be a non-metal apart from hydrogen
4. Half equations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Example Lead bromide (PbBr₂): • Lead is Pb²⁺ so it will migrate to the cathode. • 2Br⁻ is negative so it migrates to the anode.
	$\text{Pb}^{2+}(\text{l}) + 2\text{e}^{-} \rightarrow \text{Pb}(\text{l})$ For the lead at the cathode $2\text{Br}^{-}(\text{l}) \rightarrow \text{Br}_2(\text{g}) + 2\text{e}^{-}$ For the bromine at the anode

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5. Electrolysis of solution:	Ionic compounds are very energy-intensive in solution. Predicting the products at the electrodes is different as there's H ₂ O in the solution.
6. water at the anode	when water is at the cathode it will be reduced as it gains electrons. $2\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) + 2\text{e}^{-} \rightarrow 2\text{OH}^{-}(\text{aq}) + \text{H}_2(\text{g})$
7. Water at the cathode	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The water be oxidised (loses electrons) • The water will break making 4 types of ions present in the solution. • Only one species can react at each electrode $2\text{H}_2\text{O}(\text{l}) \rightarrow \text{O}_2(\text{g}) + 4\text{H}^{+}(\text{aq}) + 4\text{e}^{-}$
8. Rules for the cathode:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If + ions are group 1,2, aluminium, or acids then hydrogen will be produced. • If + ions are less reactive than hydrogen, the metal will be produced.
9. Rules for the anode:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If - ions are halogens then the halogens will be produced. • If - ions are not a halogen then oxygen will be produced.
10. When the electrodes are the same as solution at the anode e.g. copper.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrodes of copper and a solution of a copper compound) • The metal anode will lose mass because copper atoms will change into copper ions and go into solution.

Elements of the Sea

Electrolysis knowledge organiser



Background information

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Additional information

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