

“Quick & Dirty” Ionic Charge Guide

Cations (Positive Charges)

For Groups 1A, 2A and 3A: Charge on metal = **Positive**
Magnitude of charge = **Group number**

Examples:

Lithium (Group 1A)	<i>positive</i> +1 charge	Li ⁺
Strontium (Group 2A)	<i>positive</i> +2 charge	Sr ⁺²
Gallium (Group 3A)	<i>positive</i> +3 charge	Ga ⁺³

Anions (Negative Charges)

For Groups 5A, 6A and 7A: Charge on nonmetal = **Negative**
Magnitude of charge = **8 - Group number**

Examples:

Bromine (Group 7A)	<i>negative</i> -1 charge (8 - 7 = 1)	Br ⁻
Oxygen (Group 6A)	<i>negative</i> -2 charge (8 - 6 = 2)	O ⁻²
Nitrogen (Group 5A)	<i>negative</i> -3 charge (8 - 5 = 3)	N ⁻³

Remember: Noble Gases do not react! Inert!