

# Anion Encyclopedia Article

## Anion

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# Anion

An anion is a negatively charged **ion**. During **electrolysis** an anion is attracted to the **anode** (positive electrode). The name was coined in the 19th century and is a combination of *ana* (Greek for upwards) and ion. An anion can be a single, negatively charged **atom** or it can be a group of negatively charged ions. Anions are to be found in **solids** or **liquids**, for example in **sodium** chloride the chloride is the anion and it is represented by Cl<sup>-</sup>. An anion will form an **ionic bond** with a **cation** (positive ion) to produce an ionic compound. An anion has a greater number of electrons than protons, giving it an overall negative charge.

Anions are made of atoms that will readily accept an **electron** when the conditions are right. All of the **halogens** will form anions as will all non-metals (except hydrogen) and a range of compounds will also readily form anions and accept electrons. Examples of compounds or groups that accept anions include the nitrate and hydroxide radicals. An anion can have an overall negative charge of -1 or -2.

Anions are negatively charged particles found in ionic compounds.