

### Steps to determine if a salt is acidic/basic/neutral

1. Identify ions that the salt came from
2. Determine if the ions will hydrolyze
  - Figure out if ions came from a strong/weak acid/base
    - From strong → ion won't hydrolyze = neutral contribution
    - From weak → ion will hydrolyze = acidic or basic contribution
3. If it hydrolyzes identify if the hydrolysis of the ion would form acid (H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>) or base (OH<sup>-</sup>).
4. Figure out what the combo of each ion's contribution would be to the solution
5. To determine the "winner" when acidic + basic
  - Compare the K<sub>a</sub> and K<sub>b</sub> values
  - The higher one means it is stronger, more dissociation so it will contribute more to the resulting solution

### Steps to find the actual pH value of a salt solution

1. Do all the steps needed to determine which ion is the "stronger" one – which one can hydrolyze?
2. Write the hydrolysis reaction for that ion (or ions)
3. ICE Table time! Yes! More ICE tables! They just won't go away! ☺ Use your hydrolysis rxn for ICE Table
4. Find [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>] or [OH<sup>-</sup>] from ICE Tables
5. Continue on with normal pH type calculations using the concentrations you found from the ICE Table

		Makes the solution...
<b>Acidic + Neutral</b>		Acidic
<b>Basic + Neutral</b>		Basic
<b>Neutral + Neutral</b>		Neutral
<b>Acidic + Basic</b>	Compare K <sub>a</sub> and K <sub>b</sub> to determine which "wins"	
	K <sub>a(ion)</sub> > K <sub>b(ion)</sub>	Acidic
	K <sub>a(ion)</sub> < K <sub>b(ion)</sub>	Basic
	K <sub>a(ion)</sub> = K <sub>b(ion)</sub>	Neutral
<b>Remember:</b> K <sub>w</sub> = K <sub>a</sub> x K <sub>b</sub>		
$K_{a(\text{acidic ion})} = \frac{K_w}{K_{b(\text{of where ion came from})}}$		
$K_{b(\text{basic ion})} = \frac{K_w}{K_{a(\text{of where ion came from})}}$		

	Forms a...	Hydrolyzes?	So the ion makes sol'n
<b>Strong Acid</b>	<b>Weaker conjugate base</b>	No	<b>Neutral</b>
<b>Weak Acid</b>	<b>Stronger conjugate base</b>	Yes	<b>Basic</b>
<b>Strong Base</b>	<b>Weaker conjugate acid</b>	No	<b>Neutral</b>
<b>Weak Base</b>	<b>Stronger conjugate acid</b>	Yes	<b>Acidic</b>

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6. Do all the steps needed to determine which ion is the "stronger" one – which one can hydrolyze?
7. Write the hydrolysis reaction for that ion (or ions)
8. ICE Table time! Yes! More ICE tables! They just won't go away! ☺ Use your hydrolysis rxn for ICE Table
9. Find [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>] or [OH<sup>-</sup>] from ICE Tables
10. Continue on with normal pH type calculations using the concentrations you found from the ICE Table

		Makes the solution...
<b>Acidic + Neutral</b>		Acidic
<b>Basic + Neutral</b>		Basic
<b>Neutral + Neutral</b>		Neutral
<b>Acidic + Basic</b>	Compare K <sub>a</sub> and K <sub>b</sub> to determine which "wins"	
	K <sub>a(ion)</sub> > K <sub>b(ion)</sub>	Acidic
	K <sub>a(ion)</sub> < K <sub>b(ion)</sub>	Basic
	K <sub>a(ion)</sub> = K <sub>b(ion)</sub>	Neutral
<b>Remember:</b> K <sub>w</sub> = K <sub>a</sub> x K <sub>b</sub>		
$K_{a(\text{acidic ion})} = \frac{K_w}{K_{b(\text{of where ion came from})}}$		
$K_{b(\text{basic ion})} = \frac{K_w}{K_{a(\text{of where ion came from})}}$		

	Forms a...	Hydrolyzes?	So the ion makes sol'n
<b>Strong Acid</b>	<b>Weaker conjugate base</b>	No	<b>Neutral</b>
<b>Weak Acid</b>	<b>Stronger conjugate base</b>	Yes	<b>Basic</b>
<b>Strong Base</b>	<b>Weaker conjugate acid</b>	No	<b>Neutral</b>
<b>Weak Base</b>	<b>Stronger conjugate acid</b>	Yes	<b>Acidic</b>