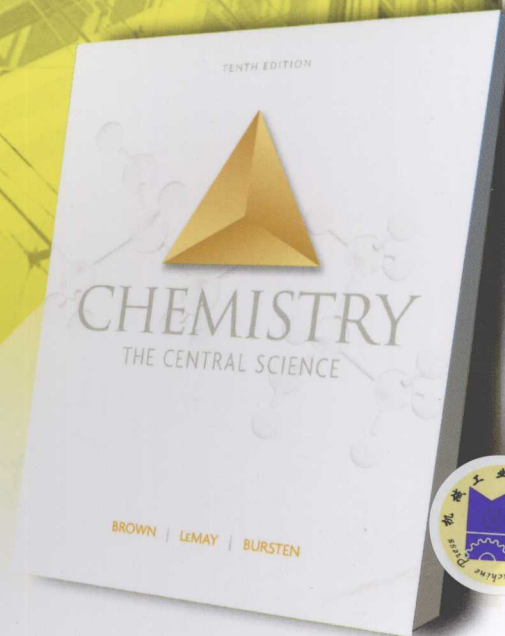


化学：中心科学

(英文版·原书第10版)

Chemistry: The Central Science

(美) Theodore L. Brown
H. Eugene LeMay, Jr
Bruce E. Bursten 著
Catherine J. Murphy



机械工业出版社
CHINA MACHINE PRESS

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时代教育·国外高校优秀教材精选

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English reprint copyright© 2006 by Pearson Education, Inc. .

Original English language title: Chemistry: the central science, 10th ed., by Theodore L. Brown. . .

ISBN 0-13-109686-9

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Published by arrangement with the original publisher, Pearson Education, Inc. , publishing as Pearson Benjamin Cummings.

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北京市版权局著作权合同登记号:图字:01-2008-1145

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

化学:中心科学:第10版:英文/(美)布朗(Brown,T.L.),
(美)勒梅(LeMay,H.E.), (美)伯斯坦
(Burstan,B.E.)著. —北京:机械工业出版社,2009.7
(时代教育·国外高校优秀教材精选)
ISBN 978-7-111-27323-3

I. 化… II. ①布…②勒…③伯… III. 化学—高等学校—教材—英文 IV. 06

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2009)第 089473 号

机械工业出版社(北京市百万庄大街 22 号 邮政编码 100037)

责任编辑:郑 玫 版式设计:霍永明

封面设计:鞠 杨 责任印制:李 妍

北京铭成印刷有限公司印刷

2009 年 8 月第 1 版第 1 次印刷

184mm×260mm·73 印张·2 插页·1819 千字

标准书号:ISBN 978-7-111-27323-3

定价:98.00 元

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LIST OF ELEMENTS WITH THEIR SYMBOLS AND ATOMIC WEIGHTS

Element	Symbol	Atomic number	Atomic weight	Element	Symbol	Atomic number	Atomic weight	Element	Symbol	Atomic number	Atomic weight
Actinium	Ac	89	227.03 ^a	Helium	He	2	4.002602	Rhenium	Re	75	186.207
Aluminum	Al	13	26.981538	Holmium	Ho	67	164.93032	Rhodium	Rh	45	102.90550
Americium	Am	95	243.06 ^a	Hydrogen	H	1	1.00794	Rubidium	Rb	37	85.4678
Antimony	Sb	51	121.760	Indium	In	49	114.818	Ruthenium	Ru	44	101.07
Argon	Ar	18	39.948	Iodine	I	53	126.90447	Rutherfordium	Rf	104	261.11 ^a
Arsenic	As	33	74.92160	Iridium	Ir	77	192.217	Samarium	Sm	62	150.36
Astatine	At	85	209.99 ^a	Iron	Fe	26	55.845	Scandium	Sc	21	44.955910
Barium	Ba	56	137.327	Krypton	Kr	36	83.80	Seaborgium	Sg	106	266 ^a
Berkelium	Bk	97	247.07 ^a	Lanthanum	La	57	138.9055	Selenium	Se	34	78.96
Beryllium	Be	4	9.012182	Lawrencium	Lr	103	262.11 ^a	Silicon	Si	14	28.0855
Bismuth	Bi	83	208.98038	Lead	Pb	82	207.2	Silver	Ag	47	107.8682
Bohrium	Bh	-107	264.12 ^a	Lithium	Li	3	6.941	Sodium	Na	11	22.989770
Boron	B	5	10.811	Lutetium	Lu	71	174.967	Strontium	Sr	38	87.62
Bromine	Br	35	79.904	Magnesium	Mg	12	24.3050	Sulfur	S	16	32.065
Cadmium	Cd	48	112.411	Manganese	Mn	25	54.938049	Tantalum	Ta	73	180.9479
Calcium	Ca	20	40.078	Mercurium	Hg	80	200.59	Technetium	Tc	43	98 ^a
Californium	Cf	98	251.08 ^a	Mendelevium	Md	101	258.10 ^a	Tellurium	Te	52	127.60
Carbon	C	6	12.0107	Mercury	Hg	80	200.59	Terbium	Tb	65	158.92534
Cerium	Ce	58	140.116	Molybdenum	Mo	42	95.94	Thallium	Tl	81	204.3833
Cesium	Cs	55	132.90545	Neodymium	Nd	60	144.24	Thorium	Th	90	232.0381
Chlorine	Cl	17	35.453	Neon	Ne	10	20.1797	Thulium	Tm	69	168.93421
Chromium	Cr	24	51.9961	Neptunium	Np	93	237.05 ^a	Tin	Sn	50	118.710
Cobalt	Co	27	58.933200	Nickel	Ni	28	58.6934	Titanium	Ti	22	47.867
Copper	Cu	29	63.546	Niobium	Nb	41	92.90638	Tungsten	W	74	183.84
Curium	Cm	96	247.07 ^a	Nitrogen	N	7	14.0067	Uranium	U	92	238.02891
Dubnium	Db	105	262.11 ^a	Osmium	Os	76	190.23	Vanadium	V	23	50.9415
Dysprosium	Dy	66	162.50	Oxygen	O	8	15.9994	Xenon	Xe	54	131.293
Einsteinium	Es	99	252.08 ^a	Palladium	Pd	46	106.42	Ytterbium	Yb	70	173.04
Erbium	Er	68	167.259	Phosphorus	P	15	30.973761	Yttrium	Y	39	88.90585
Europium	Eu	63	151.964	Platinum	Pt	78	195.078	Zinc	Zn	30	65.39
Fermium	Fm	100	257.10 ^a	Plutonium	Pu	94	244.06 ^a	Zirconium	Zr	40	91.224
Fluorine	F	9	18.9984032	Polonium	Po	84	208.98 ^a	*b	110	271.15 ^a	
Francium	Fr	87	223.02 ^a	Potassium	K	19	39.0983	*b	111	272.15 ^a	
Gadolinium	Gd	64	157.25	Praseodymium	Pr	59	140.90765	*b	112	277 ^a	
Gallium	Ga	31	69.723	Promethium	Pm	61	145 ^a	*b	113	284 ^a	
Germanium	Ge	32	72.64	Protactinium	Pa	91	231.03688	*b	114	289 ^a	
Gold	Au	79	196.96655	Radium	Ra	88	226.03 ^a	*b	115	288 ^a	
Hafnium	Hf	72	178.49	Radon	Rn	86	222.02 ^a	*b	116	292 ^a	
Hassium	Hs	108	269.13 ^a								

^aMass of longest-lived or most important isotope.

^bThe names of elements 110 and above have not yet been decided.

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出版说明

随着我国加入 WTO，国际间的竞争越来越激烈，而国际间的竞争实际上也就是人才的竞争、教育的竞争。为了加快培养具有国际竞争力的高水平技术人才，加快我国教育改革的步伐，国家教育部近来出台了一系列倡导高校开展双语教学、引进原版教材的政策。以此为契机，机械工业出版社陆续推出了一系列国外影印版教材，其内容涉及高等学校公共基础课，以及机、电、信息领域的专业基础课和专业课。

引进国外优秀原版教材，在有条件的学校推动开展英语授课或双语教学，自然也引进了先进的教学思想和教学方法，这对提高我国自编教材的水平，加强学生的英语实际应用能力，使我国的高等教育尽快与国际接轨，必将起到积极的推动作用。

为了做好教材的引进工作，机械工业出版社特别成立了由著名专家组成的国外高校优秀教材审定委员会。这些专家对实施双语教学做了深入细致的调查研究，对引进原版教材提出了许多建设性意见，并慎重地对每一本将要引进的原版教材一审再审，精选再精选，确认教材本身的质量水平，以及权威性和先进性，以期所引进的原版教材能适应我国学生的外语水平和学习特点。在引进工作中，审定委员会还结合我国高校教学课程体系的设置和要求，对原版教材的教学思想和方法的先进性、科学性严格把关，同时尽量考虑原版教材的系统性和经济性。

这套教材出版后，我们将根据各高校的双语教学计划，举办原版教材的教师培训，及时地将其推荐给各高校选用。希望高校师生在使用教材后及时反馈意见和建议，使我们更好地为教学改革服务。

机械工业出版社



随着化学学科的不断发展和教学方法的提高,该书已经再版9次,4位作者都曾经多次获得过不同层次的教学奖。其中 Brown 在学术上造诣较深,曾获 Guggenheim 学者奖、美国化学会无机化学研究奖和无机化学进步服务优异奖等,现为 Illinois 大学(Urbana Champaign)资深化学教授。LeMay 教授有近30年的教学经验,并因此多次获得国家级教学奖。Bursten 教授是 Ohio 大学杰出化学教授,在过渡金属和铜系元素化合物研究方面有较高的水平。特别贡献作者 Murphy 教授有化学和生物化学的双学士学位,在 Wisconsin 大学得到化学博士学位。她的研究重点是无机纳米材料的合成和光学特性,以及 DNA 双螺旋结构的局部结构和动力学。

该书图文并茂,插图精美。全书共分25章,其内容安排和理论深度与国内现有的普通化学或大学一年级化学相近。应当认为,这类教材是20世纪70年代以来对我国普通化学或大学一年级化学影响最大的一类国外教材,比较重视化学基础理论的完整性和系统性。该书的初等量子力学和化学热力学部分写得比较适合大学一年级学生的水平。作为化学学科的学习,该书有较好的实用性。

该书为学生设计了一个学习系统,这个系统从构建概念框架(Building a Conceptual Framework)、解题(Problem Solving)、可视化(Visualization)、应用(Applications)四个方面构建。每一方面通过若干模块实现,例如构建概念框架通过每章开头的 What's Ahead、Give It Some Thought 检验对概念的理解、每章结尾的 Visualizing Concepts 三个模块逐层加深概念的理解。

对于学生而言,本教材提供了核心的、不可缺少的学习工具,无论是用作学习、提高,还是参考、准备考试,都能胜任。对于老师也有很好的参考价值,Chemistry at Work 和 Chemistry and Life 模块中的内容是国内教材所没有的。

前5章从宏观现象的角度阐明化学的基本概念,第6~9章讲述电子结构和电子键,随后重点转移到物质构成的另一个阶段:物质状态(第10~11章)和溶液(第13章)。在学生理解了化学键和分子间相互作用的基础上,第12章关于现代材料,是实用性的章节,增加了发光聚合物和物质的毫微技术的新内容。接下来几章讨论了影响化学反应的速度和范围的因素:化学动力学(第14章)、化学均衡(第15~17章)、化学热力学(第19章)、电化学(第20章)。第18章为环境化学,讨论大气层和地球水面。最后几章关于核化学(第21章)、非金属、金属、有机化学和生物化学(第22~25章),可以不按顺序、有选择地教授。

清华大学 化学系
宋心琦

Preface

To the Instructor

Philosophy

This is the tenth edition of a text that has enjoyed unprecedented success over its many editions. It is fair to ask why there needs to be yet another edition. The answer in part lies in the nature of chemistry itself, a dynamic science in a process of continual discovery. New research leads to new applications of chemistry in other fields of science and in technology. A textbook that purports to introduce chemistry to students who have only a limited prior acquaintance with it should reflect that dynamic, changing character. We want the text to convey the excitement that scientists experience in making new discoveries and contributing to our understanding of the physical world.

In addition, the teaching of chemistry is also continuously changing. New ideas about how to present chemistry are being offered by teachers of chemistry, and many of these new ideas are reflected in how the textbook is organized and the ways in which individual topics are presented. In addition, new technologies and new devices to assist students in learning lead to new ways of presenting learning materials: the Internet, computer-based classroom projection tools, and more effective means of testing, to name just a few. All of these factors impact on how the text and the accompanying supplementary materials are modified from one edition to the next.

Our aim in revising the text has been to ensure that the text remains a central, indispensable learning tool for the student. It is the one device that can be carried everywhere and used at any time, and as such, it is a one-stop source of all the information that the student is likely to need for learning, skill development, reference, and test preparation. We believe that students are more enthusiastic about learning chemistry when they see its importance to their own goals and interests. With this in mind, we have highlighted many important applications of chemistry in everyday life. At the same time, the text provides the background in modern chemistry that students need to serve their professional interests and, as appropriate, to prepare for more advanced chemistry courses.

If the text is to support your role as teacher effectively, it must be addressed to the students. We have done our best to keep our writing clear and interesting and the book attractive and well-illustrated. Furthermore, we have provided numerous in-text study aids for students, including carefully placed descriptions of problem-solving strategies. Together, we have logged many years of teaching experience. We hope this is evident in our pacing and choice of examples.

A textbook is only as useful to students as the instructor permits it to be. This book is loaded with many features that can help students learn and that can guide them as they acquire both conceptual understanding and problem-solving skills. But the text and all the supplementary materials provided to support its use must work in concert with the instructor. There is a great deal for the students to use here, too much for all of it to be absorbed by any one student. You, the instructor, are the guide to a proper use of the book. Only with your active help will the students be able to fully utilize all that the text and its supplements offer. Students care about grades, of course, but with encouragement, they can also care about learning just because the subject matter is interesting. Please consider emphasizing features of the book that can materially

enhance student appreciation of chemistry, such as the *Chemistry at Work* and *Chemistry and Life* boxes that show how chemistry impacts modern life and its relationship to health and life processes. Learn to use, and urge students to use, the rich Internet resources available. Emphasize conceptual understanding, and place less emphasis on simple manipulative, algorithmic problem-solving. Spending less time on solving a variety of gas law problems, for example, can open up opportunities to talk about chemistry and the environment.

Organization and Contents

In the present edition the first five chapters give a largely macroscopic, phenomenological view of chemistry. The basic concepts introduced—such as nomenclature, stoichiometry, and thermochemistry—provide necessary background for many of the laboratory experiments usually performed in general chemistry. We believe that an early introduction to thermochemistry is desirable because so much of our understanding of chemical processes is based on considerations of energy change. Thermochemistry is also important when we come to a discussion of bond enthalpies. We have continued to refine our approach to teaching thermodynamics in general chemistry. It is no easy matter to walk the narrow pathway between—on the one hand—trying to teach too much at too high a level and—on the other—resorting to oversimplifications. As with the book as a whole, the emphasis has been on imparting conceptual understanding, as opposed to presenting equations into which students are supposed to plug numbers.

The next four chapters (Chapters 6–9) deal with electronic structure and bonding. Here we have made several significant changes, particularly in the presentation of atomic orbitals. New *Closer Look* boxes deal with radial probability functions and the nature of antibonding orbitals. The focus of the text then changes to the next level of the organization of matter: the states of matter (Chapters 10 and 11) and solutions (Chapter 13). Also included in this section is an applications chapter on the chemistry of modern materials (Chapter 12), which builds on the student's understanding of chemical bonding and intermolecular interactions. This chapter has received a major revision, in keeping with the rapid pace of change in technology. It has been reorganized to emphasize the classification of materials according to their uses (materials for structure, materials for electronics, etc.). In addition, new topics such as light-emitting polymers and materials for nanotechnology have been added.

The next several chapters examine the factors that determine the speed and extent of chemical reactions: kinetics (Chapter 14), equilibria (Chapters 15–17), thermodynamics (Chapter 19), and electrochemistry (Chapter 20). Also in this section is a chapter on environmental chemistry (Chapter 18), in which the concepts developed in preceding chapters are applied to a discussion of the atmosphere and hydrosphere. We have further revised and refined our introduction to equilibrium constants in Chapter 15. The chapter on thermodynamics has been carefully reworked to give students a better sense of how the macroscopic and microscopic views of entropy are connected.

After a discussion of nuclear chemistry (Chapter 21), the final chapters survey the chemistry of nonmetals, metals, organic chemistry, and biochemistry (Chapters 22–25). These chapters are developed in a parallel fashion and can be treated in any order.

Our chapter sequence provides a fairly standard organization, but we recognize that not everyone teaches all the topics in exactly the order we have chosen. We have therefore made sure that instructors can make common changes in teaching sequence with no loss in student comprehension. In particular, many instructors prefer to introduce gases (Chapter 10) after stoichiometry or after thermochemistry rather than with states of matter. The chapter on gases has been written to permit this change with *no* disruption in the flow of

material. It is also possible to treat the balancing of redox equations (Sections 20.1 and 20.2) earlier, after the introduction of redox reactions in Section 4.4. Finally, some instructors like to cover organic chemistry (Chapter 25) right after bonding (Chapter 9). With the exception of the discussion of stereochemistry (which is introduced in Section 24.3), this, too, is a seamless move.

We have introduced students to descriptive organic and inorganic chemistry by integrating examples throughout the text. You will find pertinent and relevant examples of “real” chemistry woven into all the chapters as a means to illustrate principles and applications. Some chapters, of course, more directly address the properties of elements and their compounds, especially Chapters 4, 7, 12, 18, and 22–25. We also incorporate descriptive organic and inorganic chemistry in the end-of-chapter exercises.


Changes in this edition

Some of the changes in the tenth edition made in individual chapters have already been mentioned. More broadly, we have introduced a number of new features that are general throughout the text. *Chemistry: The Central Science* has traditionally been valued for its clarity of writing, its scientific accuracy and currency, its strong end-of-chapter exercises, and its consistency in level of coverage. In making changes, we have made sure not to compromise those characteristics. At the same time, we have responded to feedback received from the faculty and students who used the ninth edition. Sections that have seemed most difficult to students have in many cases been rewritten and augmented with improved artwork. In order to make the text easier for students to use, we have continued to employ an open, clean design in the layout of the book. Illustrations that lend themselves to a more schematic, bolder presentation of the underlying principles have been introduced or revised from earlier versions. The art program in general has been strengthened, to better convey the beauty, excitement, and concepts of chemistry to students. The chapter-opening photos have been integrated into the introduction to each chapter, and thus made more relevant to the chapter’s contents.

We have continued to use the What’s Ahead overview at the opening of each chapter, introduced in the ninth edition. *Concept links* (☞) continue to provide easy-to-see cross-references to pertinent material covered earlier in the text. The essays titled *Strategies in Chemistry*, which provide advice to students on problem solving and “thinking like a chemist,” continue to be an important feature. A new in-chapter feature is the *Give It Some Thought* exercises. These are informal, rather sharply focused questions that give students opportunities to test whether they are actually “getting it” as they read along. We have added more conceptual exercises to the end-of-chapter exercises. A new category of end-of-chapter exercises, *Visualizing Concepts*, has been added to every chapter. These exercises are designed to facilitate concept understanding through use of models, graphs, and other visual materials. They precede the regular end-of-chapter exercises and are identified in each case with the relevant chapter section number. New Multi-Focus Graphics have been added. These graphics depict topics in macroscopic, microscopic, symbolic and conceptual representation so students learn to see chemistry the way scientists do, from a variety of perspectives. The *Integrative Exercises*, which give students the opportunity to solve more challenging problems that integrate concepts from the present chapter with those of previous chapters, have also been increased in number.

New essays in our well-received *Chemistry at Work* and *Chemistry and Life* series emphasize world events, scientific discoveries, and medical breakthroughs that have occurred since publication of the ninth edition. We maintain our focus on the positive aspects of chemistry, without neglecting the problems that can arise in an increasingly technological world. Our goal is to help students appreciate the real-world perspective of chemistry and the ways in which chemistry affects their lives.

You'll also find that we've

- Revised the end-of-chapter Exercises, with particular focus on the black-numbered exercises (those not answered in the Appendix).
- Integrated more conceptual questions into the end-of-chapter material. For the convenience of instructors, these are identified by the  annotation in the Annotated Instructor's Edition, but not in the student edition of the text.
- Added new eLaboratory Exercises in the end-of-chapter material. These exercises allow students to develop and practice the skills they learn from the chapter in a simulated laboratory, available in software that accompanies the text. The realistic setting helps students see how problem-solving in chemistry applies in practice.
- Updated the eMedia Exercises in the end-of-chapter material. These exercises take advantage of the integrated media components and extend students' understanding, using the advantages that interactive, media-rich presentations offer.
- Continued the practice of using an eMedia Activity icon in the margins to indicate where students can extend understanding of a concept or topic by looking at an activity located on the Web site or the Accelerator CD-ROM.
- Carried the stepwise Analyze, Plan, Solve, Check problem-solving strategy into nearly all of the Sample Exercises of the book to provide additional guidance in problem solving.
- Expanded the use of dual-column problem-solving strategies in many Sample Exercises to more clearly outline the process underlying mathematical calculations, thereby helping students to better perform mathematical calculations.

To the Student

Chemistry: The Central Science, Tenth Edition, has been written to introduce you to modern chemistry. As authors, we have, in effect, been engaged by your instructor to help you learn chemistry. Based on the comments of students and instructors who have used this book in its previous editions, we believe that we have done that job well. Of course, we expect the text to continue to evolve through future editions. We invite you to write to us to tell us what you like about the book so that we will know where we have helped you most. Also, we would like to learn of any shortcomings, so that we might further improve the book in subsequent editions. Our addresses are given at the end of the Preface.

Advice for learning and studying chemistry

Learning chemistry requires both the assimilation of many new concepts and the development of analytical skills. In this text we have provided you with numerous tools to help you succeed in both. We have provided details of the features of this text in the "walk-through" on pages xxxii–xxxv. You will find it helpful to examine those features.

If you are going to succeed in your course in chemistry, you will have to develop good study habits. Science courses, and chemistry in particular, make different demands on your learning skills than other types of courses. We offer the following tips for success in your study of chemistry:

Don't fall behind! As your chemistry course moves along, new topics will build on material already presented. If you don't keep up in your reading and problem solving, you will find it much harder to follow the lectures and discussions on current topics. "Cramming" just before an exam has been shown to be an ineffective way to study any subject, chemistry included.

Focus your study. The amount of information you will be expected to learn can sometimes seem overwhelming. It is essential to recognize those concepts and skills that are particularly important. Pay attention to what your instructor is emphasizing. As you work through the Sample Exercises and homework assignments, try to see what general principles and skills they deal with. Use the What's Ahead feature at the beginning of each chapter to help orient you to what is important in each chapter. A single reading of a chapter will simply not be enough for successful learning of chapter concepts and problem-solving skills. You will need to go over assigned materials more than once. Don't skip the Give It Some Thought features, Sample Exercises, and Practice Exercises. They are your guide to whether you are actually learning the material.

Keep good lecture notes. Your lecture notes will provide you with a clear and concise record of what your instructor regards as the most important material to learn. Use your lecture notes in conjunction with this text; that's your best way to determine which material to study.

Skim topics in the text before they are covered in lecture. Reviewing a topic before lecture will make it easier for you to take good notes. First read the introduction and Summary, then quickly read through the chapter, skipping Sample Exercises and supplemental sections. Pay attention to the titles of sections and subsections, which give you a feeling for the scope of topics. Try to avoid thinking that you must learn and understand everything right away.

After lecture, carefully read the topics covered in class. As you read, pay attention to the concepts presented and to the application of these concepts in the Sample Exercises. Once you think you understand a Sample Exercise, test your understanding by working the accompanying Practice Exercise.

Learn the language of chemistry. As you study chemistry, you will encounter many new words. It is important to pay attention to these words and to know their meanings or the entities to which they refer. Knowing how to identify chemical substances from their names is an important skill; it can help you avoid painful mistakes on examinations. For example, "chlorine" and "chloride" refer to very different things.

Attempt the assigned end-of-chapter exercises. Working the exercises that have been selected by your instructor provides necessary practice in recalling and using the essential ideas of the chapter. You cannot learn merely by observing; you must be a participant. In particular, try to resist checking the *Student Solutions Manual* (if you have one) until you have made a sincere effort to solve the exercise yourself. If you really get stuck on an exercise, however, get help from your instructor, your teaching assistant, or another student. Spending more than 20 minutes on a single exercise is rarely effective unless you know that it is particularly challenging.

Make use of the online resources. Some things are more easily learned by discovery, and others are best shown in three dimensions. Use the Companion Website with GradeTracker or OneKey course management materials to this text to get the most out of your time in chemistry.

The bottom line is to work hard, study effectively, and use the tools that are available to you, including this textbook. We want to help you learn more about the world of chemistry and why chemistry is the central science. If you learn chemistry well, you can be the life of the party, impress your friends and parents, and ... well, also pass the course with a good grade.

Acknowledgments

Many people contributed hard work and talent to bring this edition to life. Colleagues helped us immensely by sharing their insights, providing suggestions for improvements and reviewing draft materials. We would especially like to thank the following individuals who have contributed to this and prior editions:

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Special Thanks to Those Who Provided Valuable Feedback to the Authors and/or Publisher

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Special Thanks to Others Involved in the Review of the Previous Edition Text and Its Various Components

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		Karen Weichelman	University of Louisiana-Lafayette

We would also like to express our gratitude to our colleagues at Prentice Hall whose imagination and commitment have done a great deal to shape this edition: Nicole Folchetti, our Executive Chemistry Editor, who brought energy and many creative ideas to our collaboration; Ray Mullaney, our developmental editorial manager, who has been with us for a long time and who continues to infuse a sense of style, accuracy, and quality into the project; John Challice, Editor in Chief, who continues to support us in all the right ways; Kathleen Schiaparelli, Executive Managing Editor, for her support and encouragement; Irene Nunes, our developmental editor, whose sharp, good-humored scrutiny of our draft materials has kept us consistent and on-message; Fay Ahuja, our copy editor, for her keen eye and excellent memory; Rosaria Cassinese, who worked successfully with a difficult and demanding production schedule; Paul Draper, our media editor, and Margaret Trombley, media development editor, who have taken on increasingly complex assignments as the electronic components of our project have gained in importance; Yvonne Gerin, our photo researcher, who has always been there with the right stuff; Kristen Kaiser, project manager, and Angela Sica, editorial assistant, for their valuable contributions to the new edition. We offer a special thanks to all the students and faculty who have sent us comments and suggestions about Chemistry: The Central Science, Ninth Edition. You will see that many of your suggestions have been taken into account in preparing this new edition. Finally, we are happy to thank out families and friends for their love, support and patience as we brought this tenth edition to completion.

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A Student's Guide to Using this Text

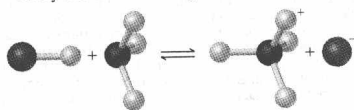
THE FOLLOWING PAGES WALK YOU THROUGH some of the main features of this text and its integrated media components. This learning system was designed with you, the student, in mind. We hope you enjoy your study of chemistry—the central science.

GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT

Why is the choice of indicator more crucial for a weak acid–strong base titration than for a strong acid–strong base titration?

VISUALIZING CONCEPTS

16.1 (a) Identify the Brønsted–Lowry acid and the Brønsted–Lowry base in the following reaction:



(b) Identify the Lewis acid and the Lewis base in the reaction. [Sections 16.2 and 16.11]

16.2 The following diagrams represent aqueous solutions of two monoprotic acids, HA (A = X or Y). The water

Building a Conceptual Framework

“What’s Ahead” Sections At the beginning of each chapter, reading the “What’s Ahead” sections will give you a sense of direction for studying the chapter and help you to recognize key ideas and relationships of the topics within the chapter.

“Give It Some Thought” Questions These new, informal, rather sharply focused questions will give you opportunities to test whether you are actually “getting it” as you study the material. Give these questions some real thought before you check your responses against the answers at the back of the book.

“Visualizing Concepts” Exercises Just before the end-of-chapter exercises, there are new Visualizing Concepts exercises that ask you to consider concepts through the use of models, graphs, and other visual materials. These exercises will help you develop a conceptual understanding of the key ideas in the chapter. There are additional conceptual exercises among the end-of-chapter exercises.

Problem Solving

Learning effective problem-solving skills is one of your most important goals in this course. To help you solve problems with confidence, the text integrates problem-solving pedagogy.

Worked Solutions demonstrate the strategy and thought process involved in solving each exercise.

Analyze/Plan/Solve/Check Theme provides a consistent framework for helping you to understand what you are being asked to solve, to plan how you will solve each problem, to work your way through the solution, and to check to make sure that your answer is correct.

Dual-Column Problem-Solving Strategies found in selected Sample Exercises provide an explanation of the thought process involved in each step of a mathematical calculation to give you a conceptual understanding of those calculations.

SAMPLE EXERCISE 3.13 | Calculating an Empirical Formula

Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) contains 40.92% C, 4.58% H, and 54.50% O by mass. What is the empirical formula of ascorbic acid?

Solution

Analyze: We are to determine an empirical formula of a compound from the mass percentages of its elements.

Plan: The strategy for determining the empirical formula involves the three steps given in Figure 3.11.

Solve: We first assume, for simplicity, that we have exactly 100 g of material (although any mass can be used). In 100 g of ascorbic acid, we have

40.92 g C, 4.58 g H, and 54.50 g O.

Second, we calculate the number of moles of each element

$$\text{Moles C} = (40.92 \text{ g C}) \left(\frac{1 \text{ mol C}}{12.01 \text{ g C}} \right) = 3.407 \text{ mol C}$$

$$\text{Moles H} = (4.58 \text{ g H}) \left(\frac{1 \text{ mol H}}{1.008 \text{ g H}} \right) = 4.54 \text{ mol H}$$

$$\text{Moles O} = (54.50 \text{ g O}) \left(\frac{1 \text{ mol O}}{16.00 \text{ g O}} \right) = 3.406 \text{ mol O}$$

Third, we determine the simplest whole-number ratio of moles by dividing each number of moles by the smallest number of moles, 3.406:

$$\text{C: } \frac{3.407}{3.406} = 1.000 \quad \text{H: } \frac{4.54}{3.406} = 1.33 \quad \text{O: } \frac{3.406}{3.406} = 1.000$$

The ratio for H is too far from 1 to attribute the difference to experimental error; in fact, it is quite close to $1\frac{1}{3}$. This suggests that if we multiply the ratio by 3, we will obtain whole numbers:

$$\text{C:H:O} = 3(1:1.33:1) = 3:4:3$$

The whole-number mole ratio gives us the subscripts for the empirical formula:



Check: It is reassuring that the subscripts are moderately sized whole numbers. Otherwise, we have little by which to judge the reasonableness of our answer.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

A 5.325-g sample of methyl benzoate, a compound used in the manufacture of perfumes, is found to contain 3.758 g of carbon, 0.316 g of hydrogen, and 1.251 g of oxygen. What is the empirical formula of this substance?

Answer: $\text{C}_8\text{H}_8\text{O}_2$