

chapter 6 review chemical bonding answer key

Published: September 27, 2026 | Index ID: #-

Introduction

Welcome to a deep dive into the world of chemical bonding, the cornerstone of chemistry that explains why atoms stick together and how they interact to create the materials we use every day. Whether you're a high school student tackling Chapter 6 of your textbook, a college freshman preparing for an exam, or an adult learner brushing up on fundamentals, this comprehensive guide will walk you through the key concepts, review questions, and an answer key that will help you master the content. By the end of this article, you'll not only understand the theory behind ionic, covalent, and metallic bonds, but you'll also have practical tools to reinforce your learning.

Understanding Chemical Bonding: The Core Concepts

Before we jump into the Chapter 6 review, let's revisit the fundamental ideas that underpin chemical bonding. These ideas form the scaffold for all the problems and explanations that follow.

1. The Electronegativity Principle

Electronegativity measures an atom's ability to attract electrons in a chemical bond. The difference in electronegativity between two bonded atoms determines the bond type:

- Large difference (≥ 1.7): Ionic bond – electrons transfer, forming ions.
- Small difference (Covalent bond – electrons shared).
- Intermediate difference: Polar covalent bond – shared electrons skew toward the more electronegative atom.

2. The Octet Rule and Beyond

The octet rule states that atoms tend to form bonds so they have eight electrons in their valence shell. While it works well for many main group elements, exceptions exist:

- Hydrogen seeks 2 electrons.
- Elements in period 3 and beyond can accommodate more than eight electrons.
- Transition metals often form complex coordination compounds.

3. Bond Types and Their Properties

1. Ionic Bonds – Electrostatic attraction between oppositely charged ions. High melting/boiling points, good conductors when molten or dissolved.
2. Covalent Bonds – Sharing of electron pairs. Can be non polar or polar, influencing physical properties.
3. Metallic Bonds – Delocalized electrons in a lattice of metal cations. Explain conductivity, malleability, and ductility.
4. Hydrogen Bonds & Other Intermolecular Forces – Weak attractions that affect boiling points, solubility, and molecular structure.

Chapter /6 Overview: What the Review Covers

Chapter /6 typically focuses on the intricacies of chemical bonding, including:

- Bond formation theories (Lewis structures, VSEPR).
- Bond strength, length, and energy.

- Electrostatic interactions in ionic compounds.
- Resonance structures and hybridization.
- Applications of bonding concepts in real world materials.

Our review will mirror these topics, offering clear explanations and practice questions to cement your understanding.

Detailed Review of Key Topics

1. Lewis Structures and Octet Completion

Lewis structures provide a visual way to represent bonding and lone pairs. Remember these steps:

1. Count valence electrons.
2. Place the least electronegative atom in the center.
3. Form single bonds.
4. Complete octets with lone pairs.
5. Use double or triple bonds if necessary.
6. Check for formal charge minimization.

2. VSEPR Theory: Predicting Molecular Geometry

Valence Shell Electron Pair Repulsion (VSEPR) theory predicts the 3D shape of molecules based on electron pair repulsion. Key shapes:

- Linear (180°)
- Tetrahedral (109.5°)
- Trigonal planar (120°)
- Trigonal bipyramidal ($90^\circ/120^\circ$)
- Octahedral (90°)

These shapes influence physical properties such as polarity and reactivity.

3. Hybridization and Molecular Orbitals

Hybridization explains the mixing of atomic orbitals to form new hybrid orbitals that accommodate bonding. Common hybrids include:

- sp^3 (tetrahedral)
- sp^2 (trigonal planar)
- sp (linear)

Molecular orbital theory extends this by combining atomic orbitals to form bonding, non bonding, and antibonding orbitals, giving insight into bond order and magnetic properties.

4. Resonance Structures

Resonance occurs when multiple Lewis structures are needed to represent a molecule accurately. The real structure is a hybrid of all contributing forms, leading to delocalized electrons and increased stability.

5. Ionic vs. Covalent vs. Metallic

Each bond type has distinct characteristics:

Bond Type	Formation	Properties
Ionic	Electron transfer	High melting point, soluble in water, conducts when molten
Covalent	Electron sharing	Varied melting points, poor conductors, can be polar or non polar
Metallic	Delocalized electrons in lattice	High conductivity, malleable, ductile

6. Intermolecular Forces

Beyond the primary bonds, molecules experience weaker forces that influence boiling points and solubility:

- London dispersion forces (present in all molecules)
- Dipole–dipole interactions (polar molecules)
- Hydrogen bonds (when H is bonded to F, O, or N)
- Hydrophobic effects (in aqueous solutions)

Practice Questions for Chapter 6

Now that we've covered the theory, let's test your understanding with a series of practice questions. Try solving them before checking the answer key.

1. Draw the Lewis structure for BF_3 and determine its molecular geometry.
2. Explain why sodium chloride (NaCl) has a high melting point compared to ethanol ($\text{C}_2\text{H}_5\text{OH}$).
3. Identify the type of bond in the following compounds: CO_2 , H_2O , and Cu .
4. For the molecule NO_2 , draw all valid resonance structures and explain the significance of resonance stabilization.
5. Predict the shape of the ammonia molecule (NH_3) using VSEPR theory and explain its polarity.
6. Explain the difference between a single, double, and triple bond in terms of electron pair sharing.
7. Calculate the formal charge of each atom in the nitrate ion (NO_3^-) and determine the most stable structure.
8. Discuss the role of electronegativity in determining bond polarity in the molecule CH_4 vs. CH_3F .
9. Describe the impact of hydrogen bonding on the boiling point of water compared to methane.
10. Explain why transition metals can form coordination complexes with varying geometries.

Chapter 6 Review Chemical Bonding Answer Key

Below is the answer key to the practice questions. Use this to check your work and understand any mistakes.

Answer 1

Lewis structure of BF_3 : Boron at center, three single bonds to fluorine atoms, no lone pairs on boron. Geometry: trigonal planar (120°).

Answer 2

NaCl is ionic, forming a crystal lattice with strong electrostatic forces between Na^+ and Cl^- ions, leading to a high melting point. Ethanol is covalent with only dipole–dipole and London forces, resulting in a low melting point.

Answer 3

- CO₂: Double covalent bonds (C=O).
- H₂O: Polar covalent bonds (O–H).
- Cu: Metallic bonds among copper atoms.

Answer 4

Resonance structures for NO₂⁻: One structure with a double bond to one oxygen and a single bond to the other, with a formal charge on nitrogen; the other structure swaps the double bond. Resonance delocalizes the negative charge, stabilizing the ion.

Answer 5

NH₃ has a trigonal pyramidal shape due to the lone pair on nitrogen. The molecule is polar because the lone pair creates an uneven electron distribution.

Answer 6

Single bond: one shared pair of electrons. Double bond: two shared pairs. Triple bond: three shared pairs. More shared pairs increase bond strength and reduce bond length.

Answer 7

In NO₃⁻, the most stable structure has one nitrogen–oxygen double bond and two nitrogen–oxygen single bonds with negative charges on the latter. Formal charges are minimized, and resonance distributes the charge.

Answer 8

CH₄ has nearly identical electronegativities among C and H, yielding a non polar molecule. CH₃F has a significant electronegativity difference between C and F, resulting in a polar bond and a net dipole moment.

Answer 9

Water's hydrogen bonds create a highly organized network, raising its boiling point (~100 °C). Methane lacks hydrogen bonding, so its boiling point is just –161 °C.

Answer 10

Transition metals have d orbitals that can accept electron density from ligands in multiple orientations, allowing octahedral, tetrahedral, square planar, or other geometries depending on ligand field strength and electronic configuration.

Study Tips for Mastering Chemical Bonding

To internalize these concepts, consider the following strategies:

- Visualize structures. Use 3D models or drawing software to see shapes.
- Practice regularly. Solve at least five problems per concept each week.
- Teach someone else. Explaining the material reinforces your understanding.
- Use mnemonic devices. For example, “I’m Very Cautious About Metal Bonds” to remember bond types.
- Connect to real world examples. Think about how bonding explains the properties of metals, salts, and organic molecules.

Conclusion

Mastering Chapter 6’s chemical bonding concepts is essential for anyone pursuing chemistry, materials science, or

related fields. By understanding the principles of electronegativity, Lewis structures, VSEPR theory, and resonance, you'll be equipped to tackle complex molecules and predict their behavior. Use the practice questions and answer key provided to test your knowledge, and apply the study tips to deepen your grasp. With consistent effort, the seemingly abstract world of bonds will become a tangible foundation for scientific exploration.

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