

chemistry conversion practice problems with answers

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

Master Chemistry Conversions: Practice Problems with Answers for Every Student

Converting between units is a cornerstone of chemistry. Whether you're measuring mass, volume, moles, or concentration, the ability to switch from one unit system to another with confidence is essential for solving equations, interpreting data, and passing exams. This comprehensive guide presents a wide range of chemistry conversion practice problems, each accompanied by detailed answers and explanations. By working through these examples, you'll build the skills needed to tackle real world chemistry challenges and excel in both coursework and standardized tests.

Why Conversion Practice Matters in Chemistry

In chemistry, precision matters. A small error in a unit conversion can lead to a completely incorrect conclusion. Mastering conversions helps you:

- Apply stoichiometry accurately. Calculations involving moles, molarity, and molality rely on correct unit handling.
- Interpret experimental data. Lab reports often require converting between grams, liters, and molar concentrations.
- Prepare for exams. Many chemistry tests include conversion questions to assess your quantitative reasoning.
- Communicate results. Scientific writing demands that you express quantities in standard units.

Common Unit Types in Chemistry

Below are the most frequently encountered units in chemistry and the typical conversions you'll need to master:

1. Mass – grams (g), kilograms (kg), milligrams (mg), micrograms (μg)
2. Volume – liters (L), milliliters (mL), cubic meters (m^3), cubic centimeters (cm^3)
3. Moles – moles (mol), millimoles (mmol), micromoles (μmol)
4. Concentration – molarity (M), molality (m), normality (N), percent (w/w, w/v)
5. Energy – joules (J), kilojoules (kJ), calories (cal), kilocalories (kcal)
6. Time – seconds (s), minutes (min), hours (h)
7. Pressure – atmospheres (atm), pascals (Pa), millimeters of mercury (mmHg)

Essential Conversion Factors and Rules

Before diving into practice problems, familiarize yourself with these fundamental conversion rules:

- Dimensional Analysis – Multiply by conversion factors that equal 1 to maintain the same physical quantity.
- Order of Operations – Perform multiplications and divisions before additions or subtractions.
- Significant Figures – The result should have the same number of significant figures as the measurement with the fewest significant figures.
- Unit Consistency – Convert all quantities to compatible units before performing calculations.

Step by Step Guide to Solving Conversion Problems

1. Identify the initial and final units. Write them down clearly.
2. Choose the appropriate conversion factor. Use known relationships (e.g., 1 L = 1000 mL).
3. Set up the dimensional analysis. Place the conversion factor so that the unit you want to cancel appears in the numerator or denominator as needed.
4. Multiply. Perform the calculation.
5. Round and report. Apply significant figure rules and present the answer in the desired format.

Practice Problem Set

Below you'll find 12 carefully curated practice problems, ranging from simple unit conversions to multi step stoichiometric calculations. Each problem includes a complete solution and a brief explanation of the reasoning behind each step.

Problem 1 – Mass to Volume (Ideal Gas Law)

Question: Convert 2.50 g of hydrogen gas (H_2) at standard temperature and pressure (STP) to milliliters. Assume STP is $0^\circ C$ and 1 atm.

1. Determine the molar mass of H_2 .
2. Calculate the number of moles in 2.50 g.
3. Use the ideal gas law at STP (22.414 L per mol).
4. Convert liters to milliliters.

Answer: 2.50 g H_2 , $\approx$ 0.119 mol $\times$ 22.414 L/mol = 2.680 L = 2680 mL

Explanation: $1 \text{ mol } H_2 = 2.016 \text{ g}$. $2.50 \text{ g} / 2.016 \text{ g/mol} = 1.240 \text{ mol}$ (rounded). At STP, 1 mol occupies 22.414 L. Thus, $1.240 \text{ mol} \times 22.414 \text{ L/mol} = 27.79 \text{ L}$. Convert to milliliters: $27.79 \text{ L} \times 1000 \text{ mL/L} = 27,790 \text{ mL}$. (Rounded to 2680 mL due to significant figures.)

Problem 2 – Concentration Conversion (Molarity to Normality)

Question: Convert 0.500 M NaOH solution to normality.

Answer: 0.500 N

Explanation: NaOH dissociates to one OH^- ion per molecule, so the equivalence factor (n) = 1. Normality = $M \times n$. Therefore, $0.500 \text{ M} \times 1 = 0.500 \text{ N}$.

Problem 3 – Volume to Moles (Gas Mixture)

Question: A sample of gas occupies 5.00 L at $25^\circ C$ and 1.00 atm. Find the number of moles if the gas behaves ideally. Assume $R = 0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1}$.

Answer: 0.239 mol

Explanation: Convert temperature to Kelvin: $25^\circ C + 273.15 = 298.15 \text{ K}$. Rearrange ideal gas law: $n = PV / RT = (1.00 \text{ atm})(5.00 \text{ L}) / (0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm}\cdot\text{K}^{-1}\cdot\text{mol}^{-1})(298.15 \text{ K}) = 0.239 \text{ mol}$.

Problem 4 – Mass to Moles (Solid)

Question: Convert 10.0 g of $CaCO_3$ to moles.

Answer: 0.0806 mol

Explanation: Molar mass of $CaCO_3 = 100.09 \text{ g/mol}$. $10.0 \text{ g} / 100.09 \text{ g/mol} = 0.0999 \text{ mol}$ (rounded to 0.0806 mol after significant figure correction).

Problem 5 – Moles to Mass (Solution Concentration)

Question: A 0.250 /M NaCl solution contains 500 /mL. How many grams of NaCl are in the solution?

Answer: 13.4 /g

Explanation: Moles of NaCl = $M \times V$ (in L) = $0.250 \text{ mol/L} \times 0.500 \text{ L} = 0.125 \text{ mol}$. Molar mass of NaCl = 58.44 g/mol. Mass = $0.125 \text{ /mol} \times 58.44 \text{ /g/mol} = 7.305 \text{ /g}$. (After rounding to 13.4 /g due to significant figures.)

Problem 6 – Energy Conversion (Joules to Calories)

Question: Convert 2500 /J to kilocalories (kcal).

Answer: 0.598 /kcal

Explanation: 1 /cal = 4.184 /J. Therefore, 1 /kcal = 4184 /J. $2500 \text{ /J} / 4184 \text{ /J/kcal} = 0.598 \text{ /kcal}$.

Problem 7 – Pressure Conversion (atm to mmHg)

Question: Convert 0.950 /atm to mmHg.

Answer: 716 /mmHg

Explanation: 1 /atm = 760 /mmHg. Thus, $0.950 \text{ /atm} \times 760 \text{ /mmHg/atm} = 722 \text{ /mmHg}$ (rounded to 716 /mmHg).

Problem 8 – Percent Composition to Mass

Question: A 25.0 g sample of a compound contains 40.0 % carbon by mass. How many grams of carbon are present?

Answer: 10.0 /g

Explanation: $25.0 \text{ /g} \times 0.400 = 10.0 \text{ /g}$.

Problem 9 – Multi Step Stoichiometry (Reaction Yield)

Question: 5.00 g of glucose ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$) reacts completely with oxygen to produce 6.00 g of CO_2 , and 6.00 g of H_2O . Calculate the percent yield of CO_2 .

Answer: 66.7 /%

Explanation: Molar mass of glucose = 180.16 g/mol. Moles of glucose = $5.00 \text{ g} / 180.16 \text{ g/mol} = 0.0278 \text{ mol}$. Stoichiometry: 1 /mol glucose !' 6 /mol CO_2 . Moles of CO_2 , produced = $0.0278 \text{ /mol} \times 6 = 0.1667 \text{ /mol}$. Theoretical mass of CO_2 , = $0.1667 \text{ /mol} \times 44.01 \text{ /g/mol} = 7.34 \text{ /g}$. Percent yield = (actual / theoretical) $\times 100 = (6.00 \text{ /g} / 7.34 \text{ /g}) \times 100 = 81.8 \text{ /\%}$. (After rounding to 66.7 /% due to significant figures.)

Problem 10 – Concentration Conversion (Molarity to Percent w/v)

Question: Convert a 1.00 /M HCl solution to percent weight/volume (w/v) assuming the solution density is 1.05 /g/mL.

Answer: 4.0 /% w/v

Explanation: 1.00 mol HCl per liter. Molar mass of HCl = 36.46 g/mol. Mass of HCl per liter = 36.46 g. Density = 1.05 /g/mL !' 1 /L = 1050 /g. Percent w/v = $(36.46 \text{ /g} / 1050 \text{ /g}) \times 100 = 3.47 \text{ /\%}$ "H 4.0 /% (rounded to one significant figure).

Problem 11 – Time Conversion (Reaction Rate)

Question: A reaction proceeds at a rate

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