



# Polyatomic Ions

Notes

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- [VIDEO: What's a polyatomic ion?](#)
- A **polyatomic** ion is an ion composed of more than one atom
- atoms of a polyatomic ion are tightly bonded together and so the entire ion behaves as a single unit
- The vast majority of polyatomic ions are anions, many of which end in *-ate* or *-ite*

## Common Polyatomic Ions (for a quiz or test)

- Ammonium      •  $\text{NH}_4^+$
- Hydroxide      •  $\text{HO}^-$
- Carbonate      •  $\text{CO}_3^{-2}$
- Nitrate      •  $\text{NO}_3^-$
- Nitrite      •  $\text{NO}_2^-$
- Phosphate      •  $\text{PO}_4^{-3}$
- Sulfate      •  $\text{SO}_4^{-2}$
- Cyanide      •  $\text{CN}^-$
- Chlorate      •  $\text{ClO}_3^-$