

# Writing a Chemical Formula from a name

Does the name contain prefixes?

yes

Use the prefixes to write the formula

ex) dihydrogen monooxide  
 $N_2O$

no

Does the ending end in -ide?

yes

- most likely binary

- write metal & nonmetal symbols next to each other w/ charges

- drop & swap charges to become subscripts

- simplify formula / reduce if possible

be careful for polyatomics ending in -ide

• cyanide  
• peroxide  
• hydroxide

no

enclose polyatomic ion in parentheses  
can't change anything within, then drop & swap