

Molarity

One of the most useful measures of concentration in chemistry is molarity (M). Molarity is the number of moles of solute per liter of solution. A two molar (2 M) solution contains two moles of solute per liter of solution.

$$M = \frac{\text{moles(solute)}}{L(\text{solution})}$$



A two molar solution

Recall that the number of moles is determined by dividing the number of grams by the gram formula mass (GFM). There are a number of formulas for calculation that come from these relationships:

- $M = \frac{g}{GFM \times L}$
- $\text{moles} = M \times L$
- $g = M \times GFM \times L$

Below are some sample problems that show how to apply these formulas.

Sample Problem 1

Find the molarity of 100. mL of a solution that contains 0.25 moles of dissolved solute.

Step 1: Convert all volumes to liters

$$100. \text{ mL} \times \frac{0.001 \text{ L}}{1 \text{ mL}} = 0.100 \text{ L}$$

Step 2: Substitute values into the definitional equation

$$M = \frac{\text{mol}}{L} = \frac{0.25 \text{ mol}}{0.100 \text{ L}} = 2.5 \text{ M}$$

Sample Problem 2

Find the molarity of 500. mL of a solution that contains 4.9 g of dissolved sulfuric acid (H_2SO_4).

Step 1: Find the GFM

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} \text{H} & = & 1 & \times & 2 & = & 2 \\ \text{S} & = & 32 & \times & 1 & = & 32 \\ \text{O} & = & 16 & \times & 4 & = & 64 \\ & & & & & & \underline{98} \end{array}$$

Step 2: Convert all volumes to liters

$$500. \text{ mL} \times \frac{0.001 \text{ L}}{1 \text{ mL}} = 0.500 \text{ L}$$

Step 3: Substitute values into the correct equation

$$M = \frac{g}{GFM \times L} = \frac{4.9 \text{ g}}{(98 \text{ g/mol})(0.500 \text{ L})} = 0.10 \text{ M}$$

Sample Problem 3

How many moles of solute are dissolved in 250. mL of a 3.0 M solution?

Step 1: Convert all volumes to liters

$$250. \text{ mL} \times \frac{0.001 \text{ L}}{1 \text{ mL}} = 0.250 \text{ L}$$

Step 2: Substitute values into the correct equation

$$\text{mol} = M \times L = (3.0 \text{ mol/L})(0.250 \text{ L}) = 0.75 \text{ mol}$$

Sample Problem 4

How many grams of sodium carbonate (Na_2CO_3) are needed to prepare 250 mL of a 0.10 M solution?

Step 1: Find the GFM

$$\begin{array}{rclcl} \text{Na} & = & 23 & \times & 2 & = & 46 \\ \text{C} & = & 12 & \times & 1 & = & 12 \\ \text{O} & = & 16 & \times & 3 & = & 48 \\ & & & & & & \underline{106} \end{array}$$

Step 2: Convert all volumes to liters

$$250. \text{ mL} \times \frac{0.001 \text{ L}}{1 \text{ mL}} = 0.250 \text{ L}$$

Step 3: Substitute values into the correct equation

$$g = M \times L \times GFM = (0.10 \text{ mol/L})(106 \text{ g/mol})(0.250 \text{ L}) = 2.7 \text{ g}$$

Answer the questions below based on the reading and the sample problems on the previous page.

1. Determine the molarity of 500. mL of a solution with 0.35 mol of dissolved solute.
2. A 200. mL sample of a solution contains 4.0 g of NaOH. What is its molarity?
3. How many grams of KNO_3 are needed to prepare 25 mL of a 2.0 M solution?
4. How many moles of MgSO_4 are contained in 50. mL of a 3.0 M solution?
5. How many grams of CaCl_2 are dissolved in 80.0 mL of a 0.75 M solution?
6. What is the molarity of 300 mL of a solution that contains 0.60 mol of dissolved ammonia?
7. What is the molarity of 5.0 L of a solution containing 200. g of dissolved CaCO_3 ?
8. How many grams of NaCl are needed to prepare 500. mL of a 0.400 M solution?
9. How many moles of solute are contained in 3.0 L of a 1.5 M solution?
10. What is the molarity of 750 mL of a solution that contains 40.0 g of dissolved CuSO_4 ?