

CHEMICAL BONDING

Chemical bonding involves only an atom's outermost electrons. These electrons are called **valence electrons** and because they have more energy than other electrons, they tend to be found further away from the nucleus.

Since the valence electrons are the atom's most important electrons, electron dot diagrams are drawn to show them.

Lesson Checkpoint: *What are valence electrons?*

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The result of this bond is an ionic **compound**. **Ions** are electrically charged atoms and, in this case, Na having given up one electron becomes positively charged and Cl, now having an extra electron, becomes negatively charged. The force of attraction between these two ions creates the bond.

Lesson Checkpoint: *What is an ionic bond?*

- The second type of bonding is called **covalent bonding**. With this bond, atoms do not transfer their valence electrons but, instead, a sharing of valence electrons takes place. If you look at the electron dot diagram below, Hydrogen needs to get two electrons to bond and Oxygen needs eight. To achieve this, each Hydrogen atom shares one electron with Oxygen and Oxygen, in turn, shares one of its valence electrons with each Hydrogen atom. The result is the formation of a **water molecule**. A molecule forms when covalent bonds are used.



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LESSON CHECKPOINT: What are metallic bonds and what properties do they give to metal atoms?

