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Electrolytic Cells

- Reaction cannot occur spontaneously, so electricity is used to force the reaction to occur. In other words, <u>electrical energy</u> is converted to <u>chemical energy</u>.(opposite of voltaic cell)
- When electricity is used to force a chemical reaction to occur, the process is called <u>electrolysis</u>.

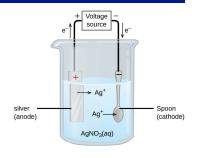
Electrolytic Cell Cathode
Electrode where electrons are sent
The negative electrode (opposite of voltaic cell)
Electrode where reduction occurs (red cat)

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Electrolytic Cell Anode

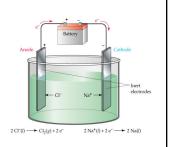
- Electrode where electrons are drawn away from
- The <u>positive</u> electrode (opposite of voltaic cell)
- Electrode where (oxidation occurs an ox)



Electrolytic Cells: Uses

 To obtain pure elements such as sodium and chlorine by the electrolysis of molten salts.

Ex: $2 \text{ NaCl(l)} \rightarrow 2 \text{Na(s)} + \text{Cl}_2(g)$

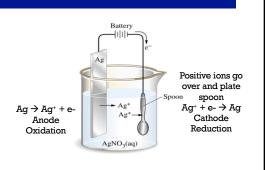


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Electrolytic Cells: Uses

2. To electroplate metals onto a surface. The material to be plated with a metal is the cathode. The anode is made of the metal used for the plating.



Compare and Contrast

| | Galvanic/Voltaic Cell | Electrolytic Cell |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Flow of e- (Spontaneous or Forced) | Spontaneous | Forced |
| (+) Electrode | Cathode | Anode |
| (-) Electrode | Anode | Cathode |
| Direction of e- Flow | Anode to cathode | Anode to cathode |
| Reduction Half Cell | Cathode | Cathode |
| Oxidation Half Cell | Anode | Anode |

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