

Taking Notes for Science Class

The Cornell Note-taking system is an effective and efficient way to take notes for the sciences. The general idea is to divide your paper into two-columns. This system allows you to keep your notes organized, summarize the main points of a lecture quickly, and review for tests more efficiently.

The Cornell Note-taking method can be used while reading a textbook or during a lecture.

How It Works:

On your paper, arrange columns in the following manner

Cue Column: (2 & 1/2 inches) Used to reduce ideas and facts to concise summaries	Note Taking Column: (6 & 1/2 Inches) Used to record the lecture as fully and meaningfully as possible
Summary: One should leave space at the bottom of each sheet to allowing space to write a summary of the lecture	

1. **Record:** During the lecture, use the note-taking column to record the lecture using telegraphic sentences. A telegraphic sentence is a sentence that expresses a straightforward, no-frills idea or action.
2. **Questions:** As soon after class as possible, formulate questions based on the notes in the right-hand column. Writing questions helps to clarify meanings, reveal relationships, establish continuity, and strengthen memory. Also, the writing of questions sets up a perfect stage for exam-studying later.
3. **Recite:** Cover the note-taking column with a sheet of paper. Then, looking at the questions or cue-words in the question and cue column only, say aloud, in your own words, the answers to the questions, facts, or ideas indicated by the cue-words.
4. **Reflect:** Reflect on the material by asking yourself questions, for example: "What's the significance of these facts? What principle are they based on? How can I apply them? How do they fit in with what I already know? What's beyond them?"
5. **Review:** Spend at least ten minutes every week reviewing all your previous notes. If you do, you'll retain a great deal for current use, as well as, for the exam.

Here is an example: this is a page of notes from an online chemistry lecture.

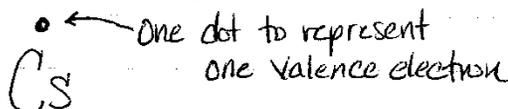
Use this column to summarize what you are learning about.

Use this column to record the details of the lecture.

Chem 209
July 5, 2012

Lewis Dot Diagrams

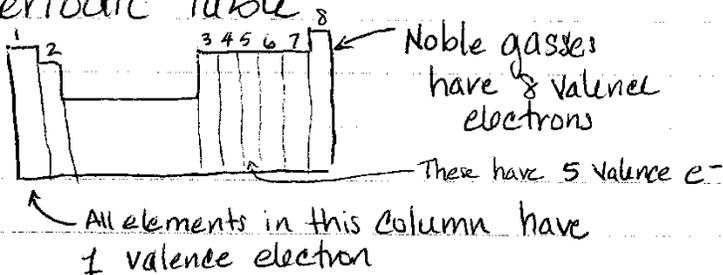
What is a Lewis dot diagram?



Element symbol for Cesium

How to determine valence electrons

You can determine valence electrons by placement in the periodic table

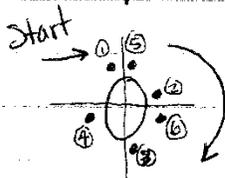


Steps for drawing dots

Step 1: Draw \oplus . Choose starting point. Go clock-wise or counter-cw

Step 2: Fill in one valence electron at a time until you return to starting position to double up.

Example



Oxygen has 6 valence electrons