

VIIA *The Halogens*

In order of increasing atomic number the members of group VIIA of the periodic table are:

flourine,
chlorine,
bromine,
iodine and
astatine.

The elements of this group are characterized by the presence of seven electrons in an outer shell, and hence have an ability to gain an electron to form negative ions with a completed octet of valence electrons. The halogens present striking similarities of chemical behaviour, all being very reactive and, in particular, readily form substitution compounds with numerous organic compounds. Although these elements also have other valences all have a -1 valence in common.