

The Octet Rule Revisited

Generally, only the outer or valence electrons (i.e. those in the highest 'n' level) are involved in chemical change. All other electrons are considered to be 'inner shell' or core electrons.

Energy level	Maximum # e's	Valence e's	Valence sublevels	Core sublevels

It appears that there are always only _____ in the _____ since when the _____ and _____ are filled in they are actually part of the _____:

- _____ electrons are always (_____) electrons
- _____ electrons are always (_____) electrons

This accounts for our observations that elements in the 'd' or 'f' blocks of the Periodic Table have similar properties (same valence electrons) whereas elements in the 'p' block are very different (different valence electrons).

