Solubility Rules

- 1. All common salts of Group 1 elements and ammonium (NH₄¹⁺) are soluble.
- 2. All common **nitrates** (NO_3^{1-1}) and acetates are soluble.
- 3. Most chlorides, bromides, and iodides are soluble except silver, lead (II), and mercury (I)
- 4. All sulfates are soluble except barium, strontium, lead (II), calcium, silver, and mercury (I)
- 5. Except for those in Rule 1, carbonates, hydroxides, oxides, and phosphates are **insoluble**.

The table that follows sums ups solubility tests for over 100 ionic compounds. Positive ions are listed at the left. Negative ions are listed across the top. To read the table, start with a positive ion from the left column such as aluminum. As you read across the aluminum row, data is given for the following compounds: aluminum acetate (ss, slightly soluble), aluminum bromide (s, soluble), aluminum carbonate (not exist, not known to exist), and so on. The "decomp" indicates that the compound chemically reacts with water and decomposes.

	acetate	bromide	carbonate	chloride	chromate	hydroxide	iodide	nitrate	phosphate	sulfate	sulfide
aluminum	SS	soluble	not exist	soluble	not exist	nearly insol	soluble	soluble	nearly insol	soluble	decomp
ammonium	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble
barium	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	decomp
calcium	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	soluble	SS	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	SS	decomp
copper (II)	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	decomp	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	nearly insoluble
iron (II)	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	not exist	nearly insoluble	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	nearly insoluble
iron (III)	soluble	soluble	not exist	soluble	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	not exist	soluble	nearly insoluble	SS	decomp
lead (II)	souble	SS	nearly insoluble	SS	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	SS	soluble	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble
magnesium	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	decomp
mercury (I)	SS	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	SS	not exist	nearly insoluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	SS	nearly insoluble
mercury(II)	soluble	SS	nearly insoluble	soluble	SS	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	decomp	nearly insoluble
potassium	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble
silver	SS	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	nearly insoluble	SS	not exist	nearly insoluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	SS	nearly insoluble
sodium	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble	soluble
zinc	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	soluble	nearly insoluble	soluble	nearly insoluble