



Sticky Note for students

VSEPR Theory: Electronic Geometry (ED) Vs Molecular Geometry

Here a set of molecules have been given with its electronic geometry (based on hybridization) and molecular geometry (based on VSEPR theory)

To understand both hybridization and VSEPR theory, initially read hybridization and VSEPR theory from chemical bonding.

	Molecules	Hybridization	ED	Molecular geometry	Bond angles distorted?
1.	CCl ₄	sp ³	tetrahedral	Tetrahedral [No lone pair (LP)]	No (109.5°)
2.	NH ₃	sp ³	tetrahedral	Trigonal pyramidal [one LP]	Yes Less than 109.5°
3.	H ₂ O	sp ³	tetrahedral	Bent [Two LP]	Yes Less than 109.5°
4.	PF ₃	sp ³	tetrahedral	Trigonal pyramidal [one LP]	Yes Less than 109.5°
5.	PF ₅	sp ³ d	trigonal bipyramidal	trigonal bipyramidal [No LP]	No 90° (axial-equatorial) 120° (equatorial), 180° (axial)
6.	SF ₄	sp ³ d	trigonal bipyramidal	See-saw [one LP]	Yes Less than 90°, 120° and 180°

7.	SF ₆	sp ³ d ²	octahedral	Octahedral [No LP]	No 90°
8.	CH ₃ ⁺	Sp ²	Trigonal planar	Trigonal planar [No LP]	No 120°
9.	ClO ₂ ⁻	sp ³	tetrahedral	Bent [Two LP]	Yes Less than 109.5°
10.	ClO ₃ ⁻	sp ³	tetrahedral	Trigonal pyramidal [one LP]	Yes Less than 109.5°
11.	ClO ₄ ⁻	sp ³	tetrahedral	Tetrahedral [No LP]	No (109.5°)
12.	KrF ₂	sp ³ d	trigonal bipyramidal	Linear [three LP]	Yes 180°
13.	XeF ₄	sp ³ d ²	octahedral	Square planar [Two LP]	No 90°
14.	XeF ₆	sp ³ d ³	pentagonal bipyramidal	Distorted octahedral (One LP)	Yes 90°
15.	XeO ₃	sp ³	tetrahedral	Trigonal pyramidal [one LP]	Yes Less than 109.5°
16.	N ₃ ⁻	sp	linear	Linear [No LP]	No 180°
17.	NO ₃ ⁻	sp ²	trigonal planar	trigonal planar [No LP]	No 120°
18.	BrF ₃	sp ³ d	trigonal bipyramidal	T-shaped [Two LP]	Yes Less than 90°, and 180° (axial)
19.	XeO ₂ F ₂	sp ³ d	trigonal bipyramidal	See-saw [one LP]	Yes

					Less than 90°, 120° and 180°
20.	CO_3^{2-}	sp^2	trigonal planar	trigonal planar [No LP]	No 120°
21.	BHCl_2	sp^2	trigonal planar	trigonal planar [No LP]	No 120°
22.	HCN	sp	linear	Linear [No LP]	No 180°
23.	I_3^-	sp^3d	trigonal bipyramidal	Linear [Three LP]	No 180°
24.	IF_5	sp^3d^2	octahedral	square planar (two LP)	Yes 90°
25.	XeF_3^+	sp^3d	trigonal bipyramidal	T-shaped (Two LP)	Yes Less than 90°, 180°

Practice makes perfect

Make molecular models using clays to understand electronic geometry vs molecular geometry