

# ideal gas law sample problem with solution

**ideal gas law sample problem with solution** is a fundamental topic in chemistry and physics, offering students and professionals a practical guide to understanding how gases behave under varying conditions. This article provides a comprehensive exploration of the ideal gas law, its mathematical formulation, and step-by-step sample problems with solutions. Readers will learn how to apply the ideal gas law to real-world scenarios, grasp the significance of each variable, and avoid common mistakes. Whether you are preparing for exams, working in a laboratory, or simply seeking to enhance your knowledge, this guide will equip you with the necessary tools and confidence. Each section delves into essential concepts, presents clear examples, and breaks down the solution process for maximum clarity. By the end, you will have mastered the ideal gas law and know exactly how to approach any related problem with accuracy and confidence.

- Understanding the Ideal Gas Law
- The Variables and Units in the Ideal Gas Law
- Step-by-Step Ideal Gas Law Sample Problem with Solution
- Tips for Solving Ideal Gas Law Problems
- Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them
- Applications of the Ideal Gas Law

## Understanding the Ideal Gas Law

The ideal gas law is a cornerstone equation in the study of gases, combining several empirical gas laws into one unified formula. It describes the relationship between pressure, volume, temperature, and the amount of gas present. This law is expressed as  $PV = nRT$ , where  $P$  is pressure,  $V$  is volume,  $n$  is the number of moles,  $R$  is the universal gas constant, and  $T$  is temperature in Kelvin. The ideal gas law assumes that the gas particles have negligible volume and no intermolecular forces, making it most accurate for dilute gases at high temperatures and low pressures.

Understanding the ideal gas law is essential for calculating unknown variables in a gaseous system. It is widely used in laboratory experiments, industrial processes, and various scientific calculations. By mastering this law, one gains a powerful tool for predicting and interpreting the behavior of gases under

different conditions.

## The Variables and Units in the Ideal Gas Law

### Pressure (P)

Pressure is a measure of the force exerted by gas particles on the walls of their container. The standard unit for pressure in the ideal gas law is atmospheres (atm), but it can also be expressed in pascals (Pa), torr, or mmHg. Consistency in units is crucial for accurate calculations.

### Volume (V)

Volume refers to the space that the gas occupies, typically measured in liters (L). Other units such as cubic meters ( $\text{m}^3$ ) can be used, provided the gas constant  $R$  is adjusted accordingly. Accurate measurement of volume ensures reliable results in problem-solving.

### Temperature (T)

Temperature in the ideal gas law must always be in Kelvin (K). Converting Celsius to Kelvin is done by adding 273.15. Using Kelvin ensures the proportionality between temperature and kinetic energy of gas particles is maintained.

### Amount of Gas (n)

The amount of gas is measured in moles (mol), which represents the number of particles in the system. Determining the correct quantity of moles is essential for applying the ideal gas law accurately.

### Universal Gas Constant (R)

The universal gas constant  $R$  has several values depending on the units used. The most common value is  $0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm}/(\text{mol}\cdot\text{K})$  for calculations involving atmospheres and liters. For SI units,  $R$  is  $8.314 \text{ J}/(\text{mol}\cdot\text{K})$ .

- Pressure (P): atmospheres (atm), pascals (Pa), torr, mmHg
- Volume (V): liters (L), cubic meters (m<sup>3</sup>)
- Temperature (T): Kelvin (K)
- Amount of Gas (n): moles (mol)
- Gas Constant (R): 0.0821 L·atm/(mol·K), 8.314 J/(mol·K)

## Step-by-Step Ideal Gas Law Sample Problem with Solution

### Sample Problem Statement

A 2.50-liter container holds 0.100 moles of oxygen gas at a temperature of 25°C. What is the pressure of the gas in atmospheres? Assume the gas behaves ideally.

### Step 1: List Known Values and Convert Units

- Volume (V) = 2.50 L
- Moles (n) = 0.100 mol
- Temperature (T) = 25°C = 25 + 273.15 = 298.15 K
- Gas constant (R) = 0.0821 L·atm/(mol·K)

### Step 2: Apply the Ideal Gas Law Formula

The formula is  $PV = nRT$ . We need to solve for P (pressure).

$$P = (nRT) / V$$

### Step 3: Substitute Values and Calculate

$$P = (0.100 \text{ mol} \times 0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm}/(\text{mol}\cdot\text{K}) \times 298.15 \text{ K}) / 2.50 \text{ L}$$

First, multiply the values in the numerator:

- $0.100 \times 0.0821 \times 298.15 = 2.448$

Then divide by the volume:

$$P = 2.448 / 2.50 = 0.979 \text{ atm}$$

### Step 4: Final Answer

The pressure of the oxygen gas in the container is approximately 0.98 atm (rounded to two decimal places).

## Tips for Solving Ideal Gas Law Problems

Mastering ideal gas law sample problems requires attention to detail and a methodical approach. Here are some strategies to ensure accuracy and efficiency when solving these problems:

1. Always convert temperature to Kelvin before substituting values.
2. Ensure all units match the value of the gas constant  $R$  being used.
3. Write down all known quantities before starting calculations.
4. Check for significant figures and round answers appropriately.
5. Review the physical meaning of your result to verify its plausibility.

# Common Mistakes and How to Avoid Them

## Using Incorrect Units

A frequent error in ideal gas law sample problems is using inconsistent units, especially for pressure and volume. Always match your units to the chosen gas constant, and convert when necessary.

## Failing to Convert Temperature to Kelvin

Temperature must be in Kelvin for the ideal gas law to work properly. Forgetting this conversion can lead to significant calculation errors.

## Misidentifying the Unknown Variable

Carefully analyze what the problem is asking for and isolate the correct variable in the equation before proceeding. This step helps avoid unnecessary confusion and mistakes.

## Ignoring Significant Figures

Precision is important in scientific calculations. Be mindful of the significant figures in your measurements and final answers, rounding only at the end for best accuracy.

## Applications of the Ideal Gas Law

The ideal gas law is not just a theoretical concept; it has practical applications in numerous fields. Some common uses include calculating the conditions for chemical reactions, designing industrial processes, and interpreting laboratory data. It helps engineers predict how gases will respond to changes in temperature, pressure, and volume, which is essential in fields like chemical engineering, meteorology, and environmental science. The ideal gas law also forms the basis for more complex equations that describe real gases, making it a foundational principle in science and industry.

## Trending and Relevant Questions and Answers About Ideal Gas Law

### Sample Problem with Solution

#### **Q: What is the ideal gas law and why is it important?**

A: The ideal gas law ( $PV = nRT$ ) relates pressure, volume, temperature, and the amount of gas, allowing for the calculation of one variable when the others are known. It is important because it predicts gas behavior under various conditions and is fundamental in chemistry and physics.

#### **Q: How do you convert Celsius to Kelvin for ideal gas law calculations?**

A: To convert Celsius to Kelvin, add 273.15 to the Celsius temperature. This ensures temperature is in the correct units for the ideal gas law.

#### **Q: What units must be used for each variable in the ideal gas law?**

A: Common units are atmospheres (atm) for pressure, liters (L) for volume, moles (mol) for the amount of gas, and Kelvin (K) for temperature. Ensure consistency with the chosen value of the gas constant R.

#### **Q: Can the ideal gas law be used for all gases?**

A: The ideal gas law works best for dilute gases at high temperatures and low pressures. It may not accurately describe real gases under extreme conditions where intermolecular forces and particle volume are significant.

#### **Q: What steps should be followed to solve an ideal gas law sample problem?**

A: List known values, convert units as needed, write the ideal gas law equation, substitute values, solve for the unknown, and round the answer appropriately.

#### **Q: Why is it necessary to use Kelvin rather than Celsius in the ideal gas law?**

A: Kelvin is required because the ideal gas law is based on absolute temperature, ensuring a direct proportionality between temperature and gas particle kinetic energy.

## **Q: What is the value of the universal gas constant R?**

A: The value of R depends on units: 0.0821 L·atm/(mol·K) for atmospheres and liters, and 8.314 J/(mol·K) for SI units.

## **Q: How do you round answers in ideal gas law problems?**

A: Answers should be rounded according to the least number of significant figures in the given data, maintaining precision and clarity.

## **Q: What are common mistakes when solving ideal gas law problems?**

A: Common mistakes include using incorrect units, failing to convert temperature, misidentifying the unknown variable, and ignoring significant figures.

## **Q: What real-world applications rely on the ideal gas law?**

A: The ideal gas law is used in chemical engineering, laboratory experiments, environmental science, meteorology, and industrial gas calculations.

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## **Ideal Gas Law Sample Problem with Solution: A Comprehensive Guide**

Are you struggling to understand the Ideal Gas Law and how to apply it to solve problems? This comprehensive guide provides a step-by-step approach to tackling common Ideal Gas Law problems, complete with detailed solutions. We'll move beyond simply stating the formula ( $PV = nRT$ ) and delve into real-world applications, ensuring you gain a firm grasp of this fundamental concept in chemistry and physics. This post will equip you with the knowledge and confidence to solve any Ideal Gas Law problem you encounter.

# Understanding the Ideal Gas Law: $PV = nRT$

Before diving into sample problems, let's briefly review the Ideal Gas Law itself:  $PV = nRT$

P represents pressure (usually in atmospheres, atm, or Pascals, Pa).

V represents volume (usually in liters, L, or cubic meters,  $m^3$ ).

n represents the number of moles of gas.

R is the ideal gas constant (its value depends on the units used for other variables; a common value is  $0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm}/\text{mol}\cdot\text{K}$ ).

T represents temperature (always in Kelvin, K). Remember to convert Celsius to Kelvin using the formula:  $K = ^\circ\text{C} + 273.15$ .

The Ideal Gas Law describes the behavior of an ideal gas - a theoretical gas whose molecules have negligible volume and do not interact with each other. While no gas is truly ideal, the Ideal Gas Law provides a good approximation for many gases under normal conditions.

## Ideal Gas Law Sample Problem 1: Determining Pressure

Problem: A sample of helium gas occupies 5.00 L at  $25^\circ\text{C}$  and 1.00 atm. If the temperature is increased to  $50^\circ\text{C}$  while the volume remains constant, what is the new pressure?

Solution:

1. Identify knowns and unknowns:

Initial pressure ( $P_1$ ) = 1.00 atm

Initial volume ( $V_1$ ) = 5.00 L

Initial temperature ( $T_1$ ) =  $25^\circ\text{C} + 273.15 = 298.15 \text{ K}$

Final volume ( $V_2$ ) = 5.00 L (constant)

Final temperature ( $T_2$ ) =  $50^\circ\text{C} + 273.15 = 323.15 \text{ K}$

Final pressure ( $P_2$ ) = ?

2. Apply the Ideal Gas Law: Since the number of moles (n) and the volume (V) remain constant, we can use a simplified version:  $P_1/T_1 = P_2/T_2$

3. Solve for  $P_2$ :  $P_2 = (P_1 T_2) / T_1 = (1.00 \text{ atm } 323.15 \text{ K}) / 298.15 \text{ K} \approx 1.08 \text{ atm}$

Therefore, the new pressure is approximately 1.08 atm.

## Ideal Gas Law Sample Problem 2: Calculating Volume

Problem: 2.00 moles of nitrogen gas are at a pressure of 1.50 atm and a temperature of 300 K. What volume does the gas occupy?



Solution:

1. Identify knowns and unknowns:

Pressure (P) = 1.50 atm

Number of moles (n) = 2.00 mol

Temperature (T) = 300 K

Volume (V) = ?

R = 0.0821 L·atm/mol·K

2. Apply the Ideal Gas Law:  $PV = nRT$

3. Solve for V:  $V = nRT/P = (2.00 \text{ mol } 0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm/mol}\cdot\text{K } 300 \text{ K}) / 1.50 \text{ atm} \approx 32.8 \text{ L}$

The nitrogen gas occupies approximately 32.8 L.

## Ideal Gas Law Sample Problem 3: Determining the Number of Moles

Problem: A gas sample has a volume of 10.0 L at a pressure of 2.00 atm and a temperature of 27°C. How many moles of gas are present?

Solution:

1. Identify knowns and unknowns:

Volume (V) = 10.0 L

Pressure (P) = 2.00 atm

Temperature (T) = 27°C + 273.15 = 300.15 K

Number of moles (n) = ?

R = 0.0821 L·atm/mol·K

2. Apply the Ideal Gas Law:  $PV = nRT$

3. Solve for n:  $n = PV/RT = (2.00 \text{ atm } 10.0 \text{ L}) / (0.0821 \text{ L}\cdot\text{atm/mol}\cdot\text{K } 300.15 \text{ K}) \approx 0.81 \text{ mol}$

Approximately 0.81 moles of gas are present.

## Beyond the Basics: Dealing with Complex Scenarios

While these examples demonstrate fundamental applications, the Ideal Gas Law can be applied to more complex scenarios involving gas mixtures, partial pressures (Dalton's Law), and more advanced concepts. Further exploration of these topics will solidify your understanding and prepare you for more challenging problems.

## Conclusion

Mastering the Ideal Gas Law is crucial for anyone studying chemistry or related fields. By understanding the formula and practicing with various sample problems, you can develop the skills necessary to confidently tackle any Ideal Gas Law challenge. Remember to always pay close attention to units and ensure consistency throughout your calculations.

## FAQs

1. What happens to the pressure of a gas if its volume decreases while temperature remains constant? According to Boyle's Law (a component of the Ideal Gas Law), pressure increases as volume decreases at a constant temperature.
2. Can the Ideal Gas Law be applied to all gases under all conditions? No, the Ideal Gas Law is most accurate for gases at low pressures and high temperatures. At high pressures and low temperatures, intermolecular forces become significant, and the assumptions of the Ideal Gas Law break down.
3. What is the significance of the ideal gas constant,  $R$ ? The ideal gas constant accounts for the proportionality between pressure, volume, temperature, and the number of moles of gas. Its value depends on the units used for other variables in the equation.
4. How do I convert Celsius to Kelvin? Add 273.15 to the Celsius temperature to obtain the equivalent Kelvin temperature.
5. Where can I find more practice problems? Numerous chemistry textbooks and online resources provide additional practice problems on the Ideal Gas Law, allowing you to further solidify your understanding. Look for resources that provide detailed solutions.

**ideal gas law sample problem with solution: Chemistry 2e** Paul Flowers, Richard Langely, William R. Robinson, Klaus Hellmut Theopold, 2019-02-14 Chemistry 2e is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of the two-semester general chemistry course. The textbook provides an important opportunity for students to learn the core concepts of chemistry and understand how those concepts apply to their lives and the world around them. The book also includes a number of innovative features, including interactive exercises and real-world applications, designed to enhance student learning. The second edition has been revised to incorporate clearer, more current, and more dynamic explanations, while maintaining the same organization as the first edition. Substantial improvements have been made in the figures, illustrations, and example exercises that support the text narrative. Changes made in Chemistry 2e are described in the preface to help instructors transition to the second edition.

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physics and understand how those concepts apply to their lives and to the world around them. Due to the comprehensive nature of the material, we are offering the book in three volumes for flexibility and efficiency. Coverage and Scope Our University Physics textbook adheres to the scope and sequence of most two- and three-semester physics courses nationwide. We have worked to make physics interesting and accessible to students while maintaining the mathematical rigor inherent in the subject. With this objective in mind, the content of this textbook has been developed and arranged to provide a logical progression from fundamental to more advanced concepts, building upon what students have already learned and emphasizing connections between topics and between theory and applications. The goal of each section is to enable students not just to recognize concepts, but to work with them in ways that will be useful in later courses and future careers. The organization and pedagogical features were developed and vetted with feedback from science educators dedicated to the project. VOLUME II Unit 1: Thermodynamics Chapter 1: Temperature and Heat Chapter 2: The Kinetic Theory of Gases Chapter 3: The First Law of Thermodynamics Chapter 4: The Second Law of Thermodynamics Unit 2: Electricity and Magnetism Chapter 5: Electric Charges and Fields Chapter 6: Gauss's Law Chapter 7: Electric Potential Chapter 8: Capacitance Chapter 9: Current and Resistance Chapter 10: Direct-Current Circuits Chapter 11: Magnetic Forces and Fields Chapter 12: Sources of Magnetic Fields Chapter 13: Electromagnetic Induction Chapter 14: Inductance Chapter 15: Alternating-Current Circuits Chapter 16: Electromagnetic Waves

**ideal gas law sample problem with solution:** *APlusPhysics* Dan Fullerton, 2011-04-28  
*APlusPhysics: Your Guide to Regents Physics Essentials* is a clear and concise roadmap to the entire New York State Regents Physics curriculum, preparing students for success in their high school physics class as well as review for high marks on the Regents Physics Exam. Topics covered include pre-requisite math and trigonometry; kinematics; forces; Newton's Laws of Motion, circular motion and gravity; impulse and momentum; work, energy, and power; electrostatics; electric circuits; magnetism; waves; optics; and modern physics. Featuring more than five hundred questions from past Regents exams with worked out solutions and detailed illustrations, this book is integrated with the *APlusPhysics.com* website, which includes online question and answer forums, videos, animations, and supplemental problems to help you master Regents Physics essentials. The best physics books are the ones kids will actually read. Advance Praise for *APlusPhysics Regents Physics Essentials*: Very well written... simple, clear engaging and accessible. You hit a grand slam with this review book. -- Anthony, NY Regents Physics Teacher. Does a great job giving students what they need to know. The value provided is amazing. -- Tom, NY Regents Physics Teacher. This was tremendous preparation for my physics test. I love the detailed problem solutions. -- Jenny, NY Regents Physics Student. *Regents Physics Essentials* has all the information you could ever need and is much easier to understand than many other textbooks... it is an excellent review tool and is truly written for students. -- Cat, NY Regents Physics Student

**ideal gas law sample problem with solution:** *General Chemistry* Ralph H. Petrucci, F. Geoffrey Herring, Jeffrey D. Madura, Carey Bissonnette, 2010-05

**ideal gas law sample problem with solution:** *General, Organic, and Biological Chemistry* Kenneth W. Raymond, 2013-01-04 *General, Organic and Biological Chemistry, 4th Edition* has been written for students preparing for careers in health-related fields such as nursing, dental hygiene, nutrition, medical technology and occupational therapy. It is also suited for students majoring in other fields where it is important to have an understanding of the basics of chemistry. An integrated approach is employed in which related general chemistry, organic chemistry, and biochemistry topics are presented in adjacent chapters. This approach helps students see the strong connections that exist between these three branches of chemistry, and allows instructors to discuss these, interrelationships while the material is still fresh in students' minds.

**ideal gas law sample problem with solution:** *Regulation of Tissue Oxygenation, Second Edition* Roland N. Pittman, 2016-08-18 This presentation describes various aspects of the regulation of tissue oxygenation, including the roles of the circulatory system, respiratory system, and blood,

the carrier of oxygen within these components of the cardiorespiratory system. The respiratory system takes oxygen from the atmosphere and transports it by diffusion from the air in the alveoli to the blood flowing through the pulmonary capillaries. The cardiovascular system then moves the oxygenated blood from the heart to the microcirculation of the various organs by convection, where oxygen is released from hemoglobin in the red blood cells and moves to the parenchymal cells of each tissue by diffusion. Oxygen that has diffused into cells is then utilized in the mitochondria to produce adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the energy currency of all cells. The mitochondria are able to produce ATP until the oxygen tension or  $PO_2$  on the cell surface falls to a critical level of about 4-5 mm Hg. Thus, in order to meet the energetic needs of cells, it is important to maintain a continuous supply of oxygen to the mitochondria at or above the critical  $PO_2$ . In order to accomplish this desired outcome, the cardiorespiratory system, including the blood, must be capable of regulation to ensure survival of all tissues under a wide range of circumstances. The purpose of this presentation is to provide basic information about the operation and regulation of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems, as well as the properties of the blood and parenchymal cells, so that a fundamental understanding of the regulation of tissue oxygenation is achieved.

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John S. Hutchinson, 2009-09-24 This is an on-line textbook for an Introductory General Chemistry course. Each module develops a central concept in Chemistry from experimental observations and inductive reasoning. This approach complements an interactive or active learning teaching approach. Additional multimedia resources can be found at: <http://cnx.org/content/col10264/1.5>

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**ideal gas law sample problem with solution:** *College Physics* Paul Peter Urone, Urone, 1997-12

**ideal gas law sample problem with solution: Chemistry 2e** Paul Flowers, Klaus Theopold, Richard Langley, Edward J. Neth, William R. Robinson, 2019-02-14 Chemistry 2e is designed to meet the scope and sequence requirements of the two-semester general chemistry course. The textbook provides an important opportunity for students to learn the core concepts of chemistry and understand how those concepts apply to their lives and the world around them. The book also includes a number of innovative features, including interactive exercises and real-world applications, designed to enhance student learning. The second edition has been revised to incorporate clearer, more current, and more dynamic explanations, while maintaining the same organization as the first edition. Substantial improvements have been made in the figures, illustrations, and example exercises that support the text narrative. Changes made in Chemistry 2e are described in the preface to help instructors transition to the second edition.

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four decades at several universities. It consists of 18 sets of problems where students are introduced to various topics of the Fluid Mechanics. Each set involves 30 problems, which can be assigned as individual homework as well as test/exam problems. The solution of a similar problem for each set is provided. The sequence of the topics and some of the problems were adopted from Fluid Mechanics by R. C. Hibbeler, 2nd edition, 2018, Pearson.

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non-ideal pure fluids and fluid mixtures, including phase equilibria and chemical reaction equilibria. The book contains detailed solutions to many challenging sample problems in classical thermodynamics and statistical mechanics that will help the reader crystallize the material taught. Class-tested and perfected over 30 years of use by nine-time Best Teaching Award recipient Professor Daniel Blankschtein of the Department of Chemical Engineering at MIT, the book is ideal for students of Chemical and Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry, and Materials Science, who will benefit greatly from in-depth discussions and pedagogical explanations of key concepts. Distills critical concepts, methods, and applications from leading full-length textbooks, along with the author's own deep understanding of the material taught, into a concise yet rigorous graduate and advanced undergraduate text; Enriches the standard curriculum with succinct, problem-based learning strategies derived from the content of 50 lectures given over the years in the Department of Chemical Engineering at MIT; Reinforces concepts covered with detailed solutions to illuminating and challenging homework problems.

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