Periodic Trends

| <u>Term</u> | <u>Definition</u> | Trend on the Periodic Table | Why? |
|-------------------|--|--|---|
| Atomic Radius | The radius of an atom (since the electron cloud accounts for the volume of the atom, this is primarily the radius of the electron cloud) | Decreases across a period Increases down a group | Across: Electrons added to the same energy level experience increasing attraction to the nucleus due to successive addition of protons Down: Each period on the table adds a new energy level to the electron cloud. |
| Ionization Energy | The energy required to remove an electron from an atom: Na + 496 kJ → Na ⁺ + e ⁻ Ionization energy <i>increases</i> for successive electrons removed from an atom: Na ⁺ + 4562 kJ → Na ²⁺ + e ⁻ | Increases across a period Decreases down a group | Across: Electrons are harder to remove from small atoms because they are closer to the nucleus Down: Electrons are easier to remove from large atoms because they are farther from the nucleus |
| Electronegativity | A measure of the ability of an atom in a chemical compound to attract electrons | Increases across a period Decreases down a group | Across: Shared electrons are closer to the nucleus in small atoms Down: Shared electrons are farther from the nucleus in large atoms |
| Cation | A positively charged ion, formed when an atom loses one or more electrons | Cations are smaller than the atom from which they were formed | Losing electrons decreases the size of the electron cloud, which reduces the radius of the atom |
| Anion | A negatively charged ion, formed when an atom gains one or more electrons | Anions are <u>larger</u> than the atom from which they were formed | Gaining electrons increases the size of the electron cloud, which increases the radius of the atom |