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STUDY MATERIAL SCIENCE

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▸ Acids, Bases and salts

In our daily life, we use a large number of edible substances such as lemon, baking soda, tamarind, common salt, sugar, curd and vinegar. Some of these substances taste sour, some taste bitter, some taste sweet and some taste salty.

Acids, bases and salts are the three important groups of chemical substances that are used by us in different ways. Some of the acids, bases and salts occur in nature and they can be made artificially in factories also.

Acids and Bases

The word acid has been derived from a Latin word 'acidus' which means 'sour'. Thus, all sour substances essentially contain acids. Substances like lemon juice, orange juice, unripe mango and curd taste sour. They taste sour because they contain substances called acids in them. The chemical nature of such substances is acidic. The acids in these substances are natural acids.

However, there are other substances like baking soda it does not taste sour.

It means that it has no acids in it. It is bitter in taste. And if prepare a solution of baking soda in water

and rub it between your fingers, it feels soapy. Substance like these which are bitter in taste and feel soapy on touch are known as bases. The chemical nature of such substances is said to be basic. All the acids mentioned in table occur in nature.

Acids and their Sources

Name of Acid	Found in
Acetic Acid	Vinegar
Formic Acid	Ant's Sting
Citric Acid	Citrus fruits such as oranges, lemons, etc..
Lactic Acid	Curd
Oxalic Acid	Spinach
Ascorbic Acid(Vitamin C)	Amla, Citrus fruits
Tartaric Acid	Tamarind, grapes, unripe mangoes, etc..

Bases and their Sources

Name of Base	Found in
Calcium Hydroxide	Lime Water
Ammonium Hydroxide	Window Cleaner
Sodium Hydroxide/Potassium Hydroxide	Soap
Magnesium Hydroxide	Milk of Magnesia