# *ChemMatters* Puzzle: Chemical Cubbyholes

This puzzle works because the vocabulary of chemistry is so rich.

We provide below eleven such words, each with one letter missing. You’re task is to fill in each vacancy. Note that these words are not anagrams. So it should be a simple job, right?

But you will soon discover that there is more than one letter that could possibly fill most of those gaps.

In nine cases there will be 2 or 3 or more possible, and almost all are part of chemistry’s vocabulary. None are proper names, units, or just prefixes.

To help you choose, the missing letters read down the page will generate a word that represents a central concept in understanding chemical reactions It’s OK to work backwards from that term to the eleven word list. If successful, you will have filled each chemical cubbyhole below!

1. ALK \_\_ NE
2. E \_\_ UATION
3. M \_\_ SS
4. SULF\_\_ TE
5. MOLA \_\_ITY
6. \_\_CE
7. \_\_ASES
8. ENT\_\_OPY
9. P\_\_ON (one of the mesons)
10. FL\_\_X

11. \_\_OLAR

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |