Table 4.1 | Simple Rules for the Solubility of Salts in Water

1. Most nitrate (NO_3^-) salts are soluble.
2. Most salts containing the alkali metal ions (Li^+, Na^+, K^+, Cs^+, Rb^+) and the ammonium ion (NH_4^+) are soluble.
3. Most chloride, bromide, and iodide salts are soluble. Notable exceptions are salts containing the ions Ag^+, Pb^{2+}, and Hg_2^{2+}.
4. Most sulfate salts are soluble. Notable exceptions are $BaSO_4$, $PbSO_4$, Hg_2SO_4, and $CaSO_4$.
5. Most hydroxides are only slightly soluble. The important soluble hydroxides are NaOH and KOH. The compounds $Ba(OH)_2$, $Sr(OH)_2$, and $Ca(OH)_2$ are marginally soluble.
6. Most sulfide (S^{2-}), carbonate (CO_3^{2-}), chromate (CrO_4^{2-}), and phosphate (PO_4^{3-}) salts are only slightly soluble, except for those containing the cations in Rule 2.