Oxidation Numbers

Any element in its free (uncombined) state	0
Group IA metals	+1 always
Group IIA metals	+2 always
Fluorine	-1 always
Cl, Br, I	-1 EXCEPT when attached to a more electronegative element (F, O)
Oxygen	-2 EXCEPT peroxides O_2^{2-} superoxides O_2^-
Group VIA nonmetals	-2 *in binary ionic compounds*
Group VA nonmetals	-3 *in binary ionic compounds*
Al	+3
Zn	+2
Cd	+2
Ag	+1
H	+1 EXCEPT when attached to a metal, then -1

Common metal ions with variable oxidation numbers

+1 (-ous) +2 (-ic)	**+2 (-ous) +3 (-ic)**	**+2 (-ous) +4 (-ic)**
Cu^+ copper (I) *cuprous*	Co^{2+} cobalt (II) *cobaltous*	Pb^{2+} lead (II) *plumbous*
Cu^{2+} copper (II) *cupric*	Co^{3+} cobalt (III) *cobaltic*	Pb^{4+} lead (IV) *plumbic*
Hg_2^{2+} mercury (I) *mercurous*	Fe^{2+} iron (II) *ferrous*	Sn^{2+} tin (II) *stannous*
Hg^{2+} mercury (II) *mercuric*	Fe^{3+} iron (III) *ferric*	Sn^{4+} tin (IV) *stannic*