Octet Rule for Main Group Elements

	H Li Na K Rb Cs Fr	Be Mg Ca Sr Ba Ra	B Al Ga In Tl	C Si Ge Sn Pb		N P As Sb Bi	O S Se Te Po	F Cl Br I At	He Ne Ar Kr Xe Rn
simplified e^{1-} config in valence shell	s^1	s^2	s^2p^1	s^2p^1		s^2p^3	s^2p^4	s^2p^5	s^2p^6
# of e^{1-} in valence shell	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8
# of e^{1-} lost during reaction	1	2	3	4	/	/	/	/	/
# of e^{1-} gained during reaction	/	/	/	/	4	3	2	1	0
# of e^{1-} remaining in original valence shell	0	0	0	0	8	8	8	8	8
# of e^{1-} in outermost occuppied shell (may be a new valence	8	8	8	8		8	8	8	8
simplified e^{1-} config in outermost shell after reaction	s^2p^6	s^2p^6	s^2p^6	s^2p^6		s^2p^6	s^2p^6	s^2p^6	s^2p^6

An octet of electrons has a stable quantum mechanical wave pattern that has the electron configuration of s^2p^6 (eight is great ☺)