

## Microorganisms: Friend and Foe

### Characteristics of Metals and non-metals

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#### CHARACTERISTICS OF METALS

Some important characteristics of metals are :

- (i) Metals are good conductors of heat and electricity.
- (ii) All metals except mercury are solid at room temperature. Mercury is the only metal which is liquid at room temperature.
- (iii) Metals are malleable and ductile – that is metals can be beaten into thin sheets and drawn into thin wires.
- (iv) Metals have lustre and can be polished.
- (v) Metals have tensile strength.
- (vi) Metals are electropositive elements. That is, metals have a tendency to lose electrons and form positively charged ions, (called cations).

#### CHARACTERISTICS OF NON METALS

Some important characteristics of metals are :

- (i) Nonmetals are soft solids, liquids or gases.
- (ii) Nonmetals (except graphite) are nonconductors of heat and electricity.
- (iii) Solid nonmetals are brittle.
- (iv) Nonmetals (except graphite and diamond) are low melting and low boiling.
- (v) Nonmetals are electronegative elements. That is, nonmetals have a tendency to gain electrons and form negatively charged ions (called anions).