How many different elements (not atoms – elements) are in the compound?

Exactly two  

Metal-nonmetal  

What types of elements are they?

More than two  

Nonmetal-nonmetal  

Metal keeps its name. For Groups 1 and 2, Al, Zn, and Ag no modification is necessary. For other metals, use a Roman numeral in parentheses to indicate the charge on each ion of the metal.

Polyatomic ions retain their names.

(Ionic compound)

Metal keeps its name. For Groups 1 and 2, Al, Zn, and Ag no modification is necessary. For other metals, use a Roman numeral in parentheses to indicate the charge on each ion of the metal.

Nonmetal changes its ending to –ide.

(Molecular or covalent compound)

First element retains its name.

Second element switches to –ide ending. Each name is preceded by a prefix indicating the number of its atoms (di-, tri-, tetra-, etc.). Mono- is only used for the second element.