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

Exactly two  
More than two

What types of elements are they?

Metal-nonmetal  
Nonmetal-nonmetal

(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 (both the first and second element) is preceded by a prefix indicating the number of its atoms (di-, tri-, tetra-, etc.). Mono- is only used for the second element.

**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.