## Lewis Structures Part 1: The Basics Answer Key

## Consider the following compound:

### NCl<sub>3</sub>

How many valence electrons? <u>26</u>

Draw the skeletal structure

Distribute the electrons about each peripheral atom

If there are electrons left over, place them on the central atom

Count the electrons around each atom. Does each atom have an octet? Yes, each atom has an octet of electrons. This is a valid Lewis structure.

# Consider the following ion:

#### NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>

How many valence electrons?

8 valence electrons. One electron is subtracted due to the positive charge.

Draw the Lewis structure

Is this a valid Lewis structure? Why? Yes, because the nitrogen has an octet of electrons. Each hydrogen is surrounded by two electrons.