• Carbon monoxide is commonly used in the reduction of iron ore to iron metal. Iron ore is mostly haematite, Fe₂O₃, in which case the complete reduction reaction is:

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$$Fe_2O_3(s) + 3CO(g) \rightarrow 2Fe(s) + 3CO_2(g)$$
 $\Delta H^{\circ} = -25 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$

Incomplete reduction, however, results in the formation of magnetite, Fe₃O₄:

$$3\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3(s) + \text{CO}(g) \rightarrow 2\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4(s) + \text{CO}_2(g) \quad \Delta H^\circ = -47 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

Use these heats of reaction to calculate the enthalpy change when one mole of magnetite is reduced to iron metal using carbon monoxide.

The required reaction is:

$$Fe_3O_4(s) + 4CO(g) \rightarrow 3Fe(s) + 4CO_2(g)$$

The second reaction in the question is reversed so that it leads to loss of Fe₃O₄(s):

$$2\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4(s) + \text{CO}_2(g) \Rightarrow 3\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3(s) + \text{CO}(g)$$
 $\Delta H^\circ = +47 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$

This reaction is then added to $3 \times$ the first reaction:

$$3\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3(s) + 9\text{CO}(g) \rightarrow 6\text{Fe}(s) + 9\text{CO}_2(g)$$
 $\Delta H^\circ = 3 \times -25 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$

$$2\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4(s) + \text{CO}_2(g) \rightarrow 3\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3(s) + \text{CO}(g)$$
 $\Delta H^\circ = +47 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$

$$2\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4(s) + 8\text{CO}(g) \Rightarrow 6\text{Fe}(s) + 8\text{CO}_2(g)$$
 $\Delta H^\circ = (-75 + 47) \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$

The chemical reaction is exactly twice that required, so for one mole of Fe₃O₄(s), the $\Delta H^{\circ} = (-75 + 47) / 2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} = -14 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$.

Alternatively, using the data in the next part of the question,

$$\Delta_{\text{rxn}}H^{\circ} = \sum m\Delta_{\text{f}}H^{\circ}(\text{products}) - \sum n\Delta_{\text{f}}H^{\circ}(\text{reactants}),$$

$$\Delta_{\text{rxn}}H^{\circ} = [4\Delta_{\text{f}}H^{\circ}(\text{CO}_{2}(g))] - [\Delta_{\text{f}}H^{\circ}(\text{Fe}_{3}\text{O}_{4}(s) + 4\Delta_{\text{f}}H^{\circ}(\text{CO}(g))]$$

 $\Delta_f H^{\circ}(Fe(s)) = 0$ as it is an element in its standard state.

Hence using the data in the table below:

$$\Delta_{\text{rxn}}H^{\circ} = ([4 \times -394] - [-1118 + 4 \times -111]) \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} = -14 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

Answer: $\Delta_{rxn}H^{\circ} = -14 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$

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Another iron oxide that can be formed as an intermediate during reduction is FeO. Use the following table of thermochemical data to show whether the formation of FeO from Fe₃O₄ is spontaneous or not at 25 °C.

	$\Delta_{\rm f} H^{\circ} ({\rm kJ~mol}^{-1})$	S° (J K ⁻¹ mol ⁻¹)
FeO	-272	61
Fe ₃ O ₄	-1118	146
СО	-111	198
CO ₂	-394	214

For the reaction,

$$Fe_3O_4(s) + CO(g) \rightarrow 3FeO(s) + CO_2(g)$$

$$\Delta_{\text{rxn}}H^{\circ} = \Sigma m \Delta_{\text{f}}H^{\circ}(\text{products}) - \Sigma n \Delta_{\text{f}}H^{\circ}(\text{reactants})$$

$$= ([3 \times -272 -394] - [-1118 - 111]) \text{ kJ mol}^{-1} = +19 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

$$\Delta_{\text{rxn}}S^{\circ} = \Sigma m S^{\circ} (\text{products}) - \Sigma n S^{\circ} (\text{reactants})$$

= $([3 \times 61 + 214] - [146 + 146]) \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1} = +53 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1}$

Thus,

$$\Delta_{\text{rxn}}G^{\circ} = \Delta_{\text{rxn}}H^{\circ} - T\Delta_{\text{rxn}}S^{\circ}$$

$$= (+19 \times 10^{3} \text{ J mol}^{-1}) - (298 \text{ K})(53 \text{ J K}^{-1} \text{ mol}^{-1})$$

$$= +3200 \text{ J mol}^{-1} = +3.2 \text{ kJ mol}^{-1}$$

As $\Delta_{\text{rxn}}G^{\circ} > 0$, the reaction is not spontaneous.