

Dictionary of terms - Chemistry

These are easy marks, but only if you know them!!

Acid	A solution that has a low pH due to the hydrogen ions
Activation energy	The energy needed to start reaction
Alkali	A solution that has a high pH due to hydroxide ions
Alkali metal	Highly reactive metals found on the left-hand side of the periodic table
Alkanes	Hydrocarbon containing only single bonds
Alkenes	Hydrocarbon containing double bonds
Alloy	Mixture of atoms that lead to distorted layers that cannot slide
Atom	Small part of matter, made up from a mixture of protons, neutrons and electrons
Atom economy	A way of determining how many of the reactant atoms made it into the desired product
Atomic number	The number of protons in an atom
Bioleaching	Mining low yield ores using bacteria
Boiling point	Point at which a liquid turns into a gas
Bromine water	Orange liquid that can be used to test for double bonds
Carbon footprint	The amount of carbon that is released into the atmosphere based on your daily activities
Catalyst	Something that speeds up a reaction without being used up
Chromatography	Method of separating out mixtures
Combustion	Burning of a compound in oxygen
Compound	Two or more elements chemically bonded together
Covalent bonding	Sharing of electron between two non-metals
Cracking	Breaking a long hydrocarbon chain to short hydrocarbon chains
Crude oil	A mixture of different length hydrocarbon chains made from decomposing dead plant and animals
Desalination	Removal of salt from water
Diamond	Giant covalent compound where each carbon atom makes four bonds
Displacement	A type of reaction where one element replaces another in a compound
Electrolysis	Separating compounds using electricity
Electron	Found in the shells around the nucleus, has a charge of minus one and no mass
Element	Group of (or single) atoms that all have the same chemical characteristics, can be found on the periodic table
Endothermic	A reaction that takes in energy
Exothermic	A reaction that releases energy
Flammability	The tendency for a substance to catch fire
Formulation	Mixture of compounds

Fractional distillation	Separating out a mixture of different length hydrocarbon chains based upon boiling point
Gas	A state of matter where the atoms move atom in a fast and random matter, can be compressed and flow
Graphite	Giant covalent compound where each carbon atom makes three bonds
Greenhouse gas	Gas that traps infra-red radiation
Halogen	Highly reactive non-metals found on the right-hand side of the periodic table
Hydrocarbon	A compound that only has carbon and hydrogen in it
Ion	Atoms that has lost or gained electrons
Ionic bonding	Transfer of electrons between a metal and a non-metal
Liquid	A state of matter, where the atoms can move and flow but they cannot be compressed
Mass number	the number of protons and neutrons in an atom
Melting point	Point at which a solid turns into a liquid
Metal	On the left-hand side of the periodic table, form positive ions
Mixture	Lots of different elements that may or may not be chemically bonded together
Mole	The molecular mass in grams
Neutralization	Mixing of an acid and an alkali to give a pH of 7
Neutron	Found in the nucleus of atoms, has no charge and a mass of one
Nobel gas	Unreactive gases found on the right of the periodic table
Non-metal	On the right-hand side of the periodic table, form negative ions
Nucleus	In the centre of atoms, contains the protons and the neutrons
Oxidation	Loss of electrons
Percentage yield	A way of determining how much yield you get from a reaction
Periodic table	A way of sorting out the elements
pH	How acid or alkali a solution is
Phytomining	Mining low yield ores using plants
Portable water	Water that is safe to drink
Proton	Found in the nucleus of atoms, has a charge of plus one and a mass of one
Reactivity series	List of metals in order of reactivity
Reduction	Gain of electrons
Reversible reaction	A reaction that can go in either direction
Solid	A state of matter, where the atoms vibrate around a fixed position
Titration	Method for determining concentration of solution
Transition metal	Group of metal that are in the middle of the periodic table, form colour compounds and can be used as catalysts
Viscosity	How easily pourable something is