

Chemistry Language Cards

symbol(s)	One or two letters used to represent an element
chemical formula	A combination of symbols and numbers that represent the number and types of elements (atoms) present in a compound
subscript	A small number to the right of a symbol that is written below the normal line of letters to show how many atoms of an element are present in a substance. No subscript means there is only one atom present.
chemical reaction	When substances interact to form one or more new substances with different properties than the original substances
chemical equation	A combination of symbols and chemical formulas used to describe what happens in a chemical reaction. The equation identifies the reactants and resulting products.

coefficient	A number written in front of a chemical formula to show how many molecules of that substance are present.
reactant	Formulas written on the left side of the arrow symbol (\rightarrow) are the starting substances in a chemical reaction.
product	Formulas written on the right side of the arrow symbol (\rightarrow) are the new substances formed in a chemical reaction.
yields	An arrow symbol that shows a reaction has taken place. The reactants have reacted to produce a new substance (the product).
compound	A substance composed of two or more elements chemically combined and in a definite proportion

physical change	A change in which the characteristics of a substance are only changed physically and the chemical composition stays the same.
chemical change	A change in which a substance (or substances) is changed into one or more new substances with different properties than the original substances
law of conservation of mass	Matter is not created or destroyed, only changed. The number of atoms in the reactants must be equal to the number of atoms in the product.
precipitate	A solid that forms as a result of a chemical reaction. It may appear cloudy and will fall to the bottom of the container over time.