

Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

atom the smallest unit of an element that is still that element; the basic building block of matter

balance the method by which the numbers and types of atoms on each side of an equation are made equal

chemical equation a shorthand, symbolic way of telling about a chemical reaction using symbols and formulas
Example: $\text{NaOH} + \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{NaCl} + \text{H}_2\text{O}$

chemical formula a group of symbols used to name a compound
Example: NaCl is the chemical formula for sodium chloride, common table salt

coefficient the number in front of the symbol of an element that tells how many molecules of a substance are involved in a reaction
Example: $2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

compound a substance formed when two or more elements combine chemically

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element a substance that cannot be broken down into a simpler form by ordinary chemical means

law of conservation of mass the law that matter cannot be created or destroyed, only changed from one form to another during a physical or chemical change

mass the amount of matter in a substance

matter anything that has both mass and volume

molecule two or more atoms that have a bond of shared electrons

subscript a number in a chemical formula that tells how many atoms of an element are in a molecule
Example: H₂

substance any material or matter

symbols the letters used by scientists to represent the names of the elements

yields makes or produces