

Chemical Bonds & Equations

Section 3: Chemical Reactions



Chemical reactions are taking place all around you and even inside of you. For example, when you eat a piece of food, you begin to digest it. Chemicals in your mouth mix with food, and then chemicals break down that food for your body to use as energy. A **chemical reaction** is a change in which one or more substances are converted into new substances. The substances that react are called **reactants**, and the new substances produced are called **products**. The **law of conservation of mass** states that the total starting mass of all reactants equals the total final mass of all products. Atoms are not created or destroyed; they simply get shuffled around. A **chemical equation** uses chemical formulas and symbols to describe a chemical reaction and the product it produces.

Review:

1. What is a chemical reaction?
2. The new substances that are created during a chemical reaction are called _____.
3. Explain the law of conservation of mass.