Glenthorne High School
Achievement for all

Year 7 – Chemical Reactions -L5 Glossary (Part 2- Acids and Alkalis)

Key word	Definition
acid	An acid is a solution with a pH value less than 7.
alkali	An alkali is a soluble base.
base	A substance that neutralises an acid – those that dissolve in water are called alkalis.
concentrated	A solution is concentrated if it has a large number of solute particles per unit volume (litre or cubic metre).
concentration	A measure of the number of particles in a given volume.
corrosive	A substance is corrosive if it can burn your skin or eyes.
dilute	A solution is dilute if it has a small number of solute particles per unit volume (litre or cubic metre).
indicator	Substances used to identify whether unknown solutions are acidic or alkaline. The colour of an indicator is different in acidic and alkaline solutions.
irritant	A substance that makes your skin itch or swell up a little.
litmus	An indicator. Blue litmus paper goes red on adding acid. Red litmus paper goes blue on adding alkali.
neutral	Describes an object or particle that has no charge, or in which positive and negative charges cancel out, giving no overall charge.
neutralisation	In a neutralisation reaction, an acid cancels out a base or a base cancels out an acid.
Periodic table	A table of all the elements, in which elements with similar properties are grouped together.
pH scale	The pH scale shows whether a substance is acidic, alkaline, or neutral. An acid has a pH between 0 and 7. An alkaline has a pH between 7 and 14. A solution of pH 7 is neutral.
product	A substance that is made in a chemical reaction.
reactant	A starting substance in a chemical reaction.
salt	A salt is a compound in which the hydrogen atoms of an acid are replaced by atoms of a metal element.

strong acid	An acid in which all of the acid particles split up when it dissolves in water.
universal indicator	An indicator that changes colour to show the pH of a solution. It is a mixture of dyes.
weak acid	An acid in which only some of the acid particles split up when it dissolves in water.
word equation	A way of representing a chemical reaction simply. The reactants are on the left of an arrow, and the products are on the right. The arrow means <italic>reacts to make</italic>.