

**Year 7 – Chemical Reactions Glossary (Part 1- Elements, Atoms and Compounds)**

<b>Key term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
atom	The smallest part of an element that can exist.
carbonate	A compound that includes carbon and oxygen atoms, as well as a metal element. There are three atoms of oxygen for every one atom of carbon.
chemical formula	A formula that shows the elements present in a compound and their relative proportions.
chemical properties	Features of the way a substance reacts with other substances.
chemical reaction	A change in which atoms are rearranged to create new substances.
chemical symbol	A one- or two-letter code for an element that is used by scientists in all countries.
compound	Pure substances made up of atoms of two or more elements, strongly joined together.
element(s)	Substances that all other materials are made up of, and which contain only one type of atom. An element cannot be broken down into other substances.
molecule	A group of two or more (up to thousands) atoms strongly joined together. Most non-metal elements exist either as small or giant molecules.
natural polymer	A polymer made by plants or animals. Examples include starch, wool, cotton, and rubber.
nitrate (chemistry)	A compound that includes nitrogen and oxygen atoms, as well as a metal element. There are three atoms of oxygen for every one atom of nitrogen.
physical change	A change that is reversible, in which new substances are not made. Examples of physical changes include changes of state and dissolving.
physical properties	Features of a substance that can be observed without changing the substance itself.
polymer	A molecule made by joining up thousands of smaller molecules in a repeating pattern. Plastics are synthetic polymers, and starch is a natural polymer.
reactive	A substance is reactive if it reacts vigorously with substances such as dilute acids and water.
sulfate	A compound that includes sulfur and oxygen atoms. There are four atoms of oxygen for every one atom of sulfur.

synthetic polymer	A polymer made by people, often in a factory. Examples include poly(ethene) and poly(propene).
unreactive	Elements that take part in few chemical reactions are unreactive.