

matter	anything that occupies space and has mass
element	a pure substance that cannot be broken down into other substances by chemical reactions
compound	substance containing two or more elements chemically combined in a fixed ratio
atom	the smallest particle of an element that retains the properties of the element
proton	subatomic particle having a positive charge; found in nucleus

electron

subatomic particle  
having a negative  
charge; not in nucleus  
but surrounds it

neutron

subatomic particle  
without a charge;  
found in nucleus

nucleus

protons and neutrons  
together; make up  
the center of an atom

atomic number

identifies a specific  
element; equals the  
number of protons in an  
atom of each element

radioactive  
isotope

an unstable atom in which  
the nucleus decays  
(breaks down) releasing  
particles and energy

isotope

atoms having the same numbers of protons but different numbers of neutrons

ionic bond

occurs when atoms transfer electrons to other atoms

ion

atoms that have lost or gained electrons

covalent bond

occurs when atoms share electrons

molecule

atoms that are held together by covalent bonds

chemical reaction	interaction of substances that lead to the formation of new substances
reactant	the starting materials for a reaction; found on left side of chemical equation
product	ending materials of a reaction; found on right side of chemical equation
organic compound	substance made of two or more elements, one being carbon
inorganic compound	substance made of two or more elements, none of which is carbon

valence electrons

electrons in the outermost energy level; they are involved in bond formation

single bond

a covalent bond in which one pair of electrons is shared

double bond

a covalent bond in which four valence electrons are shared between two atoms

chemical formula

indicates the number and types of atoms in a molecule

structural formula

shows the number and types of atoms in a molecule and how they are arranged

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chemical reaction

indicates the formation  
of new substances from  
previous substances

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