

**chemical reaction**

A process that results in the interconversion of *chemical species*. Chemical reactions may be *elementary reactions* or *stepwise reactions*. (It should be noted that this definition includes experimentally observable interconversions of conformers.)

Detectable chemical reactions normally involve sets of *molecular entities*, as indicated by this definition, but it is often conceptually convenient to use the term also for changes involving single molecular entities (i.e. ‘microscopic chemical events’).

See also *identity reaction*.

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