

dissociation

1. The separation of a *molecular entity* into two or more molecular entities (or any similar separation within a polyatomic molecular entity). Examples include *unimolecular heterolysis* and *homolysis*, and the separation of the constituents of an *ion pair* into free ions.

2. The separation of the constituents of any aggregate of molecular entities.

In both senses dissociation is the reverse of *association*.

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