

Background: The number one reason why people sign up for a chemistry class (outside of excitement, travel, and attention to detail) is chemical reactions. Whenever people think of chemistry, the first thing to come to mind is doing cool things in the lab. I will let this illusion live, since most chemistry books start with an in-depth and boring exploration of numbers.

Chemicals, however, do react. We record those reactions in neat little sentences called equations. These equations have a reactants side (the things that will react) and a products side (the results of the reaction). The myth of introductory chemistry classes like this one is that we pretend that those reactions go to completion. You will unlearn that in 2nd semester general chemistry.

People that have taken a little chemistry often say that they can still balance chemical equations. Its good to know that something sticks. So we will spend some time balancing equations, and classifying different types of reactions. The evidence of a reaction is actually pretty profound. Something turned into something else, something different. In a world that looks for consistency, this is a rare thing.

Objectives:

1. Identify different types of chemical reactions.
2. Discern between reactants and products in chemical reactions.
3. Balance chemical reactions.

Reading: Zumdahl Chapter 6