

In chemistry, what do word equations represent?

A student wants to react iron with sulphur and see what is produced. In the space below, write a word equation for the reaction of iron and sulphur. Leave some space to write the reactants.

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Iron and sulphur react to make "iron sulphide". Use this information to complete the word equation.

The student puts iron filings into a bowl and mixes it with sulphur (in powder form). Both of the materials look the same as they did, but they're now mixed together. He says he has created iron sulphide.

Is he correct? Explain your answer.

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Keyword: Reactant

Definition:

Where in the equation is it found?

Keyword: Product

Definition:

Where in the equation is it found?

Look at the word equations below. In the box, next to each one, put a tick (✓) if it is correct, or a cross (✗) if there is an error. For each error, make a correction.

What is a word equation?

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- Carbon + Oxygen → Carbon Dioxide
- Iron and Sulphur → Iron Sulphide
- Glucose + Oxygen = Carbon Dioxide + Water
- Magnesium + Oxygen → Magnesium Oxide
- Aluminium + Oxygen → Aluminium Sulphide

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Word equations are a way to describe reactions in writing, but we need to be able to describe reactions in spoken words as well. For the reaction below, complete the speech bubble to show how you would verbalise this equation.

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WORD EQUATIONS

