# **Types of Chemical Reactions**

# **SYNTHESIS: Direct Combination or Synthesis Reaction**

In a synthesis reaction two or more chemical species combine to form a more complex product.

$$A + B \rightarrow AB$$

The combination of iron and sulfur to form iron (II) sulfide is an example of a synthesis reaction:

$$8 \text{ Fe} + S_{8} \rightarrow 8 \text{ FeS}$$

# **DECOMPOSITION: Chemical Decomposition or Analysis Reaction**

In a decomposition reaction a compound is broken into smaller chemical species.

$$AB \rightarrow A + B$$

The electrolysis of water into oxygen and hydrogen gas is an example of a decomposition reaction:

$$2 H_2O \rightarrow 2 H_2 + O_2$$

#### **SINGLE REPLACEMENT or Substitution Reaction**

A substitution or single displacement reaction is characterized by one element being displaced from a compound by another element.

$$A + BC \rightarrow AC + B$$

An example of a substitution reaction occurs when zinc combines with hydrochloric acid. The zinc replaces the hydrogen:

$$Zn + 2 HCl \rightarrow ZnCl_2 + H_2$$

# **DOUBLE REPLACEMENT or Metathesis Reaction**

In a double displacement or metathesis reaction two compounds exchange bonds or ions in order to form different compounds.

$$AB + CD \rightarrow AD + CB$$

An example of a double displacement reaction occurs between sodium chloride and silver nitrate to form sodium nitrate and silver chloride.

$$NaCl(aq) + AgNO_3(aq) \rightarrow NaNO_3(aq) + AgCl(s)$$

#### **Acid-Base Reaction**

An acid-base reaction is type of double displacement reaction that occurs between an acid and a base.

The H<sup>+</sup> ion in the acid reacts with the OH<sup>-</sup> ion in the base to form water and an ionic salt:

$$HA + BOH \rightarrow H_2O + BA$$

The reaction between hydrobromic acid (HBr) and sodium hydroxide is an example of an acid-base reaction:

$$\mathrm{HBr} + \mathrm{NaOH} \rightarrow \mathrm{NaBr} + \mathrm{H_2O}$$

#### **Oxidation-Reduction or Redox Reaction**

In a redox reaction the oxidation numbers of atoms are changed. Redox reactions may involve the transfer of electrons between chemical species.

The reaction that occurs when In which  $I_2$  is reduced to  $I^-$  and  $S_2O_3^{2-}$  (thiosulfate anion) is oxidized to  $S_4O_6^{2-}$  provides an example of a redox reaction:

$$2 S_2 O_3^{2-}(aq) + I_2(aq) \rightarrow S_4 O_6^{2-}(aq) + 2 I^-(aq)$$

#### **Combustion**

A combustion reaction is a type of redox reaction in which a combustible material combines with an oxidizer to form oxidized products and generate heat (exothermic reaction). Usually in a combustion reaction oxygen combines with another compound to form carbon dioxide and water. An example of a combustion reaction is the burning of naphthalene:

$$C_{10}H_8 + 12 O_2 \rightarrow 10 CO_2 + 4 H_2O_2$$

#### **Isomerization**

In an isomerization reaction, the structural arrangement of a compound is changed but its net atomic composition remains the same.

# **Hydrolysis Reaction**

A hydrolysis reaction involves breaking a bond using water. The general form for a hydrolysis reaction is:

$$X^{-}(aq) + H_{2}O(1) < --> HX(aq) + OH^{-}(aq)$$

# **Dehydration Reaction**

Dehydration is the removal of water. Often a bond is formed. The general form for a dehydration reaction is:

$$HX(aq) + YOH(aq) < --> XY(aq) + H2O(l)$$

See also

 $\underline{http://video.about.com/chemistry/What-Are-Types-of-Chemical-Reactions.htm}$