9 · Chemistry of the atmosphere

AQA · GCSE · Chemistry · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
noble gases /ˈnəʊbl ˈgæsɪz/	Helium and neon are **noble gases**: they hardly react.
water vapour /ˈwɔːtə ˈveɪpə/	**Water vapour** leaves the leaf through the stomata.
volcanic activity /vɒlˈkænɪk ækˈtɪvɪti/	Early **volcanic activity** released gases that formed the first atmosphere.
methane /ˈmiːθeɪn/	Cows give off **methane**.
condensation /kɒnˈdenseɪʃn/	**Condensation** forms water droplets as moist air cools.
sediment /ˈsedɪmənt/	Sea shells settle as **sediment** on the sea floor.
algae /ˈælgiː/	Green **algae** grow in ponds.
photosynthesis /ˌfəʊtəʊˈsɪnθəsɪs/	Plants make sugar by **photosynthesis**.
biomass /ˌbaɪəʊˈmæs/	The **biomass** of the grass is greater than the biomass of the rabbits.
limestone /ˈlaɪmstəʊn/	**Limestone** is a rock made mostly of calcium carbonate.
coal /kəʊl/	**Coal** is a fossil fuel.
crude oil /kruːd ɔɪl/	Petrol and diesel come from **crude oil**.
natural gas /ˈnætʃərəl gæs/	**Natural gas** is mostly methane.
fossil fuel /ˈfɒsl ˈfjuːəl/	Coal is a **fossil fuel** formed from ancient plants.

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respiration /ˌrespɪˈreɪʃn/	**Respiration** releases energy from glucose.
greenhouse gas /ˈgriːnhaʊs gæs/	Carbon dioxide is a **greenhouse gas**.
greenhouse effect /ˈgriːnhaʊs ɪˈfekt/	The **greenhouse effect** keeps the Earth warm.
infrared radiation /ˌɪnfrəˈred ˌreɪdiˈeɪʃn/	The Earth gives off **infrared radiation**, and greenhouse gases trap some of it.
deforestation /diːˌfɒrɪˈsteɪʃn/	**Deforestation** destroys the homes of many animals.
landfill /ˈlændfɪl/	Rotting waste in a **landfill** gives off methane.
peer review /pɪə rɪˈvjuː/	In **peer review**, other scientists check the work before it is published.
temperature anomaly	A **temperature anomaly** is how far the temperature is from the long-term average.
global climate change /ˈgləʊbl ˈklaɪmət tʃeɪndʒ/	**Global climate change** includes rising seas and more extreme weather.
thermal expansion /ˈθɜːml ekˈspænʃn/	**Thermal expansion** makes sea water take up more space as it warms.
carbon footprint /ˈkɑːbən ˈfʊtprɪnt/	The bakery's **carbon footprint** is the carbon dioxide it causes each week.
life cycle	The **life cycle** of a product goes from raw materials to disposal.

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system boundary /ˈsɪstəm ˈbaʊndəri/	Where you draw the **system boundary** changes what you count.
insulation /ˌɪnsjuːˈleɪʃn/	**Insulation** keeps the heat in the house.
pure hydrocarbon	A **pure hydrocarbon** contains only carbon and hydrogen.
incomplete combustion /ɪŋkəmˈpliːt kəmˈbʌstʃn/	**Incomplete combustion** happens when there is not enough oxygen.
carbon monoxide /ˈkɑːbən mʌˈnɒksaɪd/	**Carbon monoxide** is a poisonous gas with no smell.
soot	Incomplete combustion makes **soot**: tiny bits of carbon.
particulates /pəˈtɪkjʊleɪts/	Diesel engines release **particulates**: tiny bits of soot.
nitrogen oxides /ˈnaɪtrədʒn ˈɒksaɪdz/	Car engines release **nitrogen oxides**, which cause acid rain.
toxic /ˈtɒksɪk/	Carbon monoxide is **toxic**: it stops the blood carrying oxygen.
acid rain /ˈæsɪd reɪn/	**Acid rain** damages trees and buildings.
global dimming /ˈgləʊbl ˈdɪmɪŋ/	Soot in the air causes **global dimming**: less sunlight reaches the ground.
catalytic converter /ˌkætəˈlɪtɪk kənˈvɜːtə/	A **catalytic converter** cleans the gases from a car exhaust.

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