How fast? The rate of chemical change

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Chemistry · SL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
rate of reaction /reɪt ɒv rɪˈækʃn/	The **rate of reaction** is faster at higher temperature.
tangent /ˈtændʒənt/	Draw a **tangent** to the curve to find the gradient at one point.
initial rate /ɪˈnɪʃl reɪt/	The **initial rate** is measured at the start of a reaction.
collision theory /kəˈlɪʒn ˈθɪəri/	**Collision theory** explains reactions through successful particle collisions.
activation energy /ˌæktɪˈveɪʃn ˈenədʒi/	A match gives the **activation energy** to start the fire.
Maxwell–Boltzmann distribution	A **Maxwell–Boltzmann distribution** shows how particle energies are spread.
surface area /ˈsɜːfɪs ˈeərɪə/	Smaller solid pieces provide more **surface area** for reaction.
catalyst /ˈkætəlɪst/	A **catalyst** speeds up a reaction without being used up.
alternative reaction pathway	A catalyst provides an **alternative reaction pathway** with lower activation energy.

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