

oxidant or oxidising agent	a chemical that causes another chemical to lose electrons and is known as an electron acceptor
petroleum	a naturally occurring mixture of hydrocarbons, usually crude oil, but sometimes also including natural gas
polylactic acid	a biodegradable bioplastic that has biomedical applications such as for sutures, dialysis media etc.
polymer	a substance composed of very large molecules (macromolecules) built up by repeated links of small molecules (monomers)
polysaccharides	carbohydrates that consist of a large number of monosaccharide molecules linked together in a long chain e.g. starch, cellulose and glycogen

qualitative test

testing something to find out about it, such as the presence of double bonds, without calculating such things as concentration

radioisotope

an isotope of an element that emits radioactive particles

redox reactions

an abbreviation of (ox)idation-(re)duction reactions where electrons have been gained and lost

reductant or reducing agent

a chemical that causes another species to be reduced and itself oxidised; is known as an electron donor

reflux

a process in a chemical reaction where the products and remaining reactants are returned to the reaction in order to increase conversion or recovery

ruminants	animals, such as cows, that regurgitate and re-chew their food once having swallowed it
salt bridge	a bridge of salt solution placed between two half-cells of a galvanic cell so that charge neutrality is preserved as the reaction proceeds
saturation hydrocarbon	a carbon compound in which exactly four atoms of hydrogen are attached to each of the carbon atoms; each molecule containing only single bonds
standard electrode potential	the potential, measured in volts, of an electrode in its standard state relative to the standard hydrogen electrode
thermal cracking	cracking using high temperatures, sometimes involving pressure

thermoplastic

becoming soft and being capable of being moulded when heated

transuranic element

an element that has an atomic number greater than 92; made in nuclear reactors

unsaturated hydrocarbon

a carbon compound in which fewer than four atoms of hydrogen are attached to one or more of the carbon atoms; each molecule containing at least one double or triple bond

yeast

a single celled fungus used in baking, brewing and wine making

zein

a protein found in corn used for coating items such as paper cups

zeolites	complex aluminosilicates consisting of large lattices of aluminium, silicon and oxygen atoms
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