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# DECOMPOSITION

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A DECOMPOSITION REACTION INVOLVES THE BREAKING DOWN OF A CHEMICAL COMPOUND INTO ELEMENTS OR SIMPLER COMPOUNDS. IT IS SOMETIMES DEFINED AS THE OPPOSITE OF A SYNTHESIS REACTION. THEY CAN OCCUR SPONTANEOUSLY, OR BE INITIATED BY HEAT, A CATALYST, OR ELECTROLYSIS. AN EXAMPLE IS THE DECOMPOSITION OF HYDROGEN PEROXIDE INTO WATER & OXYGEN.

