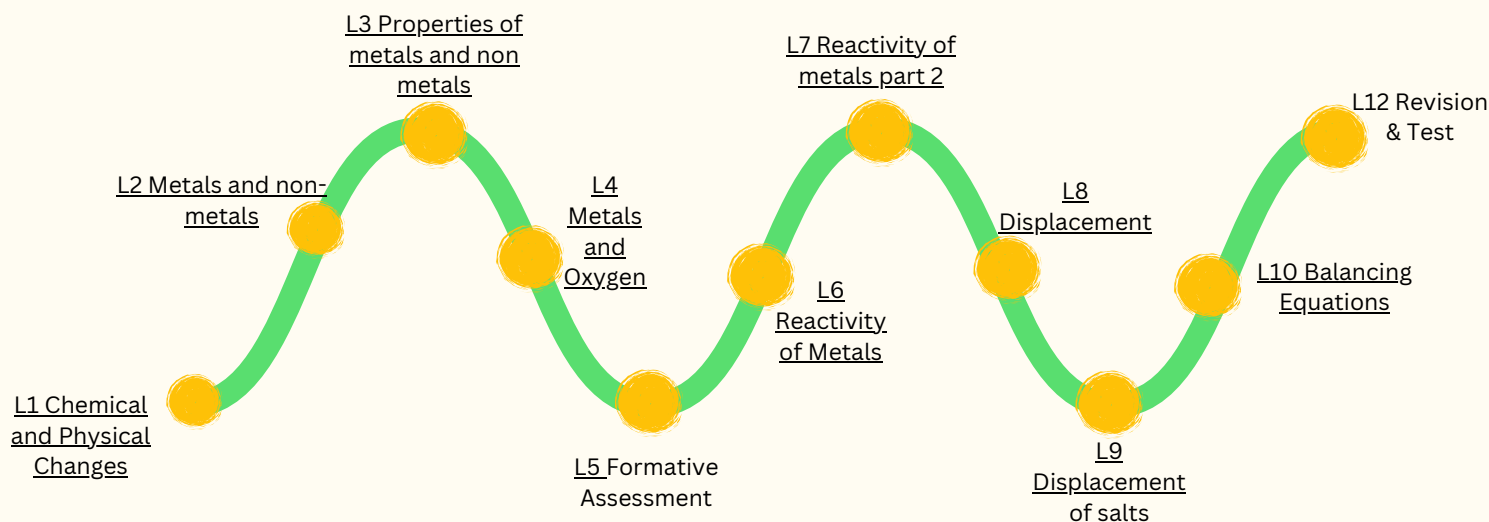


Yr8 Chemical Reactions

You will learn to distinguish between physical and chemical changes and explore how displacement reactions show differences in reactivity between metals. You will also investigate the properties of metals and non-metals, learn how to predict reactivity patterns, and practise balancing chemical equations to represent reactions accurately.



Prior learning link: KS1, 2 & 3 States of matter, everyday materials, properties of everyday materials

Key words

- **Physical Change** – A change in state or appearance where no new substance is formed (e.g. melting or freezing).
- **Chemical Change** – A change that creates a new substance, often with signs like fizzing, colour change, or heat.
- **Reactivity** – How easily a substance reacts, especially how metals react with water, acids, or oxygen.
- **Metal** – A type of element that is usually shiny, a good conductor, and reacts to form positive ions.
- **Non-metal** – Elements that are often dull, poor conductors, and may form negative ions or molecules.
- **Displacement Reaction** – A reaction where a more reactive metal takes the place of a less reactive metal in a compound.
- **Reactivity Series** – A list of metals ordered by how easily they react, from most to least reactive.
- **Compound** – A substance made of two or more elements chemically joined together.
- **Element** – A substance made of only one type of atom.
- **Chemical Equation** – A way of showing a chemical reaction using symbols and formulas.
- **Balanced Equation** – A chemical equation with the same number of each type of atom on both sides.
- **Product** – The new substance(s) made in a chemical reaction.
- **Reactant** – The starting substance(s) in a chemical reaction.
- **Corrosion** – The slow reaction of metals with substances like water or oxygen, e.g. rusting of iron.
- **Oxidation** – A chemical reaction where a substance gains oxygen, often seen when metals react with air

Revision Resources

[Chemical Reactions](#)

[BBC KS3 The reactivity Series](#)