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| adsorption | the adhesion molecules of a fluid to a solid surface; the degree of absorption depends on temperature, pressure and the surface area; the forces binding the fluid may be chemical or physical |
| bakelite | a synthetic resin made by the chemical reaction of formaldehyde and phenol; it is a thermosetting plastic and a hard, strong material used as an electrical insulator, an adhesive and a paint binder |
| biodegradable | being able to be broken down in the environment by organisms |
| cassia | an evergreen tree related to cinnamon |
| caustic | a substance that burns or destroys flesh |

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| celluloid | the first commercial synthetic plastic developed in 1869; it is tough, strong and resistant to water, oils and dilute acids and thermoplastic; being highly inflammable it has now been replaced by other plastics |
| closed systems | a chemical system which neither gains nor loses mass; it does not necessarily mean that it is physically closed |
| coal tar | a dense black viscous liquid produced by the destructive distillation of coal; fractional distillation of coal tar produces a wide variety of industrially important substances |
| collagen | a tough, fibrous protein that is a major component of connective tissues of many animals; animal hide is chiefly collagen, converted by tanning into leather |
| contact process | the manufacture of sulfuric acid from sulfur trioxide using a catalyst; it is so named because the gases need to be in contact with the catalyst |

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| deliquescent | becoming liquid by absorbing moisture from the air |
| desiccant | a desiccating agent; a chemical that removes water |
| dissociation | when a substance dissolves and ions that exist in the ionic substance are released |
| emulsion | the dispersion of small droplets of one liquid in another |
| endothermic | a reaction in which heat is taken during the reaction; the containment vessel cools down |

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| equilibrium | a dynamic chemical state in which reactions proceed in both directions, forward and reverse, their rates being equal; macroscopically the concentrations of reactants and products remain the same |
| equilibrium constant | a numerical ratio, K, where K= (products)/(reactants) and indicates the relative amounts of reactants and products in an equilibrium reaction |
| exothermic | a reaction in which heat is given out during the reaction; the containment vessel heat up |
| flocculent | like tufts of wool |
| Frasch process | a method for extracting sulfur from underground sulfur deposits |