

# Definitions for Thermodynamics



**Energy:** The capacity to do work or transfer heat.

**Enthalpy:** Energy change at constant pressure.

**Entropy:** The amount of molecular disorder or randomness in a system.

**Free Energy:**  $G = H - TS$        $\Delta G = \Delta H - T\Delta S$        $\Delta G^0 = \Delta H^0 - T\Delta S^0$

**Heat:** The process of energy transfer from one body or system to another as a result of a difference in temperature.

## Laws of Thermodynamics

**First Law:** Energy is conserved. It can be neither created nor destroyed in an isolated system.

**Second Law:** In an isolated system, natural processes are spontaneous when they lead to an increase in entropy.

**Third Law:** The entropy of a perfect crystal of any pure substance approaches zero as the temperature of the crystal approaches 0 K.

**Zeroth Law:** When two systems are in equilibrium with a third, those two systems are in equilibrium with each other.

**Spontaneous Process:** A process that proceeds on its own without any continuous external influence.

**State Function:** A property of a system that is determined only by the state or condition of the system.

**Standard Conditions:** Solutions 1 mol/L; pressure 1 atm; if the temperature is not specified, 25 °C.

**Standard State:** The most stable form of a substance under standard conditions.

**Surroundings:** Everything but the system.

**System:** Portion of the universe being studied.

**Temperature:** The property of a body or region of space that determines whether or not there will be a net flow of heat into or out of it from a neighboring body or region and in which direction the heat will flow.