

pre-association

A step on the *reaction path* of some *stepwise reactions* in which the *molecular entity* C is already present in an *encounter pair* or *encounter complex* with A during the formation of B from A, e.g.



In this mechanism the *chemical species* C may but does not necessarily assist the formation of B from A, which may itself be a *bimolecular* reaction with some other reagent. Pre-association is important when B is too short-lived to permit B and C to come together by diffusion.

See also *microscopic diffusion control, spectator mechanism*.

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