

The Importance of Enzymes

Overview

Enzymes are important molecules that allow chemical reactions to occur efficiently in living organisms. Without enzymes, most biochemical processes would be so slow that life would not exist! **Please watch this video about enzymes then answer the questions below:** <https://youtu.be/qgVFkRn8f10>

Please include the answers to the following questions in your initial reply to the discussion. When you are ready to post, click “Reply” below.

1. In the video, what features do enzymes have that make them similar to Pac-Man?
2. Lactase was an example of an enzyme shown in the video. What does the enzyme lactase breakdown? Do you think lactase can perform the same reaction on other types of sugars? Explain why or why not.
3. Time to do some research! In the video several examples of enzymes were given like lactase, lipase, amylase, and protease. Look in your textbook or on the internet (*hint: enzymes names often end in "-ase"*) - what is one other example of an enzyme and what reaction does it catalyze?

Reply to one of your classmate's posts and include the following in your reply. If possible, please choose a classmate who has not yet received a reply.

1. Do you agree or disagree with your classmate's response to question #2 about lactase breaking down other sugars? Explain your reasoning.
2. Read about your classmate's researched enzyme from question #3 and make a prediction about where you think that enzyme might be located in the body based on what reaction it catalyzes.