An oxidizing agent or oxidant is a reagent employed to oxidize (see oxidation) a given species. In the reaction between the oxidizing agent and the species, the oxidizing agent is reduced (see reduction).

eg: Oxidation of alkenes to epoxides using a peroxyacid as the oxidizing agent.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2 & \rightarrow \text{CH}_2=\text{CH} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{O} \quad \text{H} \\
\text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2 & \rightarrow \text{CH}_2=\text{CH}_2 + \text{CH}_3 \quad \text{O} \quad \text{O} \\
\end{align*}
\]

see also reducing agent

Contributors

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