

# main points

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- Everything tangible on Earth, as well as everything in the universe, is made of chemicals.
- Chemical reactions in our bodies keep us alive and allow us to move, see, hear, talk, and think.
- Even if we don't realize it, we make chemical choices every day of our lives.
- Chemists and other scientists find out about nature in a systematic way, by asking questions, designing and performing experiments, gathering data, interpreting the data, and checking that their results can be repeated.
- The application of scientific knowledge to solve problems and improve our standard of living is known as technology.
- Modern civilization relies very heavily on chemical technology.
- The application of chemical knowledge brings both risks and benefits, which can be assessed in a procedure known as risk-benefit analysis.
- It's important for you to keep informed about the latest advances in science and technology. However, be careful about accounts of scientific studies reported in the mass media. Sometimes the reporters oversimplify the details and draw unwarranted conclusions.