Unit 7

Pollution



X Read the passage. Answer the questions below.



Scientists have discovered that the ozone layer is getting thinner. Some predict that the sun's rays will cause a sharp increase in deaths from skin cancer over the next fifty years. These harmful rays can also damage the eyes, create wrinkles, and cause other health problems.

The stratosphere contains a form of oxygen called ozone. Ozone is a molecule composed of three oxygen atoms. The chemical formula of ozone is 03. Oxygen molecules make up about 21% of all gases in the Earth's atmosphere. They consist of two atoms of oxygen and are labeled 02. Most ozone found in our atmosphere is formed by an interaction between oxygen molecules and ultraviolet radiation (UV) from the sun. When ultraviolet radiation hits an oxygen molecule, it may cause the molecule to break apart into single atoms of oxygen. These single atoms are very reactive, and a single oxygen atom can combine with a molecule of oxygen to form ozone.

1. What do people say about the rate of deaths from skin cancer in the future?

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2. How many oxygen atoms are there in a molecule?

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3. What elements participate in the formation process of ozone?

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4. What happens when an oxygen molecule and an ultraviolet radiation hit each other?

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5. What is the feature of single atoms?

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