## **CHAPTER TWO**

## ADENOSINE TRIPHOSPHATE (ATP)

## What molecule is most often used in cells as a source of energy for chemical bond formation ?

Adenosine triphosphate (ATP).

#### Which of the chemical bonds in ATP is usually broken to release energy ?

The bond that is *usually* broken is the one between the  $2^{nd}$  and  $3^{rd}$  phosphates (leading to the formation of adenosine diphosphate (ADP) and a free inorganic phosphate group (Pi)).



#### What is the problem with ATP and how is this problem overcome ?

ATP is very unstable and breaks down spontaneously at a very fast rate. Therefore it must be synthesized very close to the site where it is going to be used. This means you can't just eat neat ATP as it would all be broken down before it got to its site of action in the cells. This problem is overcome by synthesizing ATP inside cells, only when it is required, using the energy contained in the chemical bonds in certain energy rich molecules that we consume in our diet.

#### Name the two main molecules consumed in the diet as a source of energy ?

Carbohydrates (such as glucose) and fatty acids. Amino acids, can also be used to synthesize ATP when carbohydrates and fatty acids are scarce (during starvation, for example).

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