

# Vocabulary



**mixture** a combination of two or more substances that can be separated by physical means

Bird seed is a mixture. You can separate the mixture into the different types of seeds it contains. A saltwater solution is a mixture, too. The salt can be separated from the water by evaporating the water. Both these methods of separation are physical methods because the identity of the items separated does not change.

**solution** a mixture in which one substance is spread out so evenly in another substance that you can't tell the substances apart

Sugar dissolved in water is a solution. The sugar molecules are evenly spread throughout the water. The sugar and water molecules are so small, you can't tell them apart.

**suspension** a mixture in which solid particles are suspended in a liquid

After a rain, a pond might look muddy instead of clear. Mud particles are larger than water molecules, so these particles and water don't form a solution. They form a suspension. After a while, the particles will settle out of the water.