Table 3-3  Characteristics of Enzymatic Proteins

1. Enzymes combine briefly with reactants during an enzyme-catalyzed reaction.
2. Enzymes are released unchanged after catalyzing the conversion of reactants to products.
3. Enzymes are specific in their activity: each enzyme catalyzes the reaction of a single type of molecule or a group of closely related molecules.
4. Enzymes are saturated by high substrate concentrations.
5. Many enzymes contain nonprotein groups called cofactors, which contribute to their activity. Inorganic cofactors are all metallic ions. Organic cofactors, called coenzymes, are complex groups derived from vitamins.