protection of a reactive group

Temporary chemical transformation of a reactive group into a group that does not react under conditions where the non-protected group reacts.

Note:

For example, trimethylsilylation is a typical transformation used to protect reactive functional groups, such as hydroxy or amino groups, from their reaction with growing anionic species in anionic polymerization.

Source:

PAC, 2004, 76, 889 (Definitions of terms relating to reactions of polymers and to functional polymeric materials (IUPAC Recommendations 2003)) on page 894