TABLE 4.4. Ribozymes

Ribozyme	Description
Self-splicing introns	Some introns splice themselves by an autocatalytic process. There is also growing evidence that the splicing pathway of GU-AG introns includes at least some steps that are catalyzed by snRNAs.
Ribonuclease P	This enzyme creates the 5′ ends of bacterial tRNAs. It consists of an RNA subunit and a protein subunit, with the catalytic activity residing in the RNA.
Ribosomal RNA	The peptidyl transferase activity required for peptide bond formation during protein synthesis is associated with the 23S rRNA of the large subunit of the ribosome.
Virus genomes	Replication of the RNA genomes of some viruses involves self-catalyzed cleavage of chains of newly synthesized genomes linked head to tail. Examples are the plant viroids and virusoids and the animal hepatitis delta virus. These viruses form a diverse group with the self-cleaving activity specified by a variety of different base-paired structures, including a well-studied one that resembles a hammerhead.
Telomeres	In some species, replication of DNA ends is catalyzed by an RNA subunit of its telomerases.

From Brown T.A. 2002. *Genomes,* 2nd ed., Table 10.4, BIOS Scientific Publishers Ltd., Oxford.
snRNA, small nuclear RNA; tRNA, transfer RNA.