



Figure 8.5. Transduction, the transfer of genetic material from donor to recipient via virus particles. (With permission, from T. D. Brock, K. M. Brock, and D. M. Ward, *Basic Microbiology with Applications*, 3d ed., Pearson Education, Upper Saddle River, NJ, 1986, p. 161.)

8.3.4. Episomes and Conjugation

A third type of gene transfer involves another genetic element. This element is called an *episome*. It is a DNA molecule that may exist either integrated into the chromosome or separate from it. When it exists separately from the chromosome (extrachromosomally), it is essentially a plasmid. A well-known episome is the F or fertility factor. Such factors are responsible for the process known as *conjugation*.