Organic Chemistry

Organic chemistry is the chemistry of carbon.

The simplest carbon molecules are compounds of just carbon and hydrogen, hydrocarbons. We name the compounds based on the length of the longest carbon chain. We then add prefixes and suffixes to describe the types of bonds and any add-ons the molecule has.

When the molecule has just single bonds we use the -ane suffix.

Name	Formula	Isomers	
Methane	CH ₄ 1		
Ethane	C_2H_6 1		
Propane	C_3H_8	1	
Butane	C_4H_{10}	2	
Pentane	C_5H_{12}	3	
Hexane	$C_{6}H_{14}$	5	
Heptane	C ₇ H ₁₆	9	
Octane	$C_{8}H_{18}$	18	
Nonane	C_9H_{20}	35	
Decane	$C_{10}H_{22}$	<i>7</i> 5	

Isomers are compounds that have the same formula but different bonding.

$$H_3C$$
 CH_3
 H_3C
 CH_2
 CH_3
 H_2C
 CH_2
 CH_3
 CH_3

Naming Alkanes

Hydrocarbons are always named based on the longest carbon chain.

When an alkane is a substituent group they are named using the -yl ending instead of the -ane ending. So, -CH3 would be a methyl group.

The substituent groups are named by numbering the carbons on the longest chain so that the first branching gets the lowest number possible. The substituents are listed alphabetically with out regard to the number prefixes that might be used.

$$H_3C$$
 — CH_2 — CH_2 — CH_2 — CH_2 — CH_3 — C

Alkenes and Alkynes

When a hydrocarbon has a double bond we replace the -ane ending with -ene.

When the hydrocarbon has more than three carbon the position of the double bond must be specified with a number.

$$H_2C = CH - CH_2 - CH_3$$
 1-butene

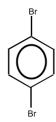
 H_3C —CH=CH— CH_3 2-butene

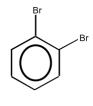
Hydrocarbons with triple bonds are named basically the same, we replace the -ane ending with -yne.

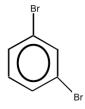
Aromatic Hydrocarbons

Cyclic hydrocarbons with delocalized bonds are called aromatic hydrocarbons the most common of these is benzene.

Naming aromatic compounds is very similar to other hydrocarbons.







1,2-dibromobenzene

1,3-dibromobenzene

1,4-dibromobenzene

ortho-dibromobenzene

meta-dibromobenzene

para-dibromobenzene

The Common Functional Groups				
Class	Functional Group	General Formula*	Example	
Halohydrocarbons	—X (F,Cl,Br,I)	R—X	CH ₃ I Iodomethane (methyl iodide)	
Alcohols	—он	R—OH	CH ₃ OH Methanol (methyl alcohol)	
Ethers	-0-	R—O—R′	CH ₃ OCH ₃ Dimethyl ether	
Aldehydes	_c—н	R—C—H	CH ₂ O Methanal (formaldehyde)	
Ketones	_c_	R—C—R'	CH ₃ COCH ₃ Propanone (dimethyl ketone or acetone)	
Carboxylic acids	—c—он	R−С−ОН	CH ₃ COOH Ethanoic acid (acetic acid)	
Esters	-c-o-	R-C-O-R'	CH ₃ COOCH ₂ CH ₃ Ethyl acetate	
Amines	-NH ₂	R-NH ₂	CH ₃ NH ₂ Aminomethane (methylamine)	

[&]quot;R and R' represent hydrocarbon fragments.