An introduction to A Level organic chemistry

A-Level Chemistry · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
functional group /ˈfʌŋkʃənl gruːp/	The –OH **functional group** makes a compound an alcohol. –OH
amide /əˈmaɪd/	Ethanamide is an **amide**.
aromatic /ərəʊˈmætɪk/	Benzene is an **aromatic** compound.
benzene /ˈbenziːn/	**Benzene** is a ring of six carbon atoms.
benzene ring /ˈbenziːn rɪŋ/	Phenol has a **benzene ring**.
suffix /ˈsʌfɪks/	The **suffix** “-ol” shows an alcohol. “-ol”
prefixes	Chloro- and methyl- are **prefixes** in a name. Chloro- methyl-
skeletal formula /ˈskelɪtl ˈfɔːmjʊlə/	In a **skeletal formula**, each corner of a line is a carbon atom.
electrophilic substitution /ɪˌlektrəʊˈfɪlɪk ˌsʌbstɪˈtjuːʃn/	Benzene reacts by **electrophilic substitution**.
addition–elimination /əˈdɪʃn ɪˌlɪmɪˈneɪʃn/	Acyl chlorides react by **addition–elimination**.
hybridisation /ˌhaɪbrɪdaɪˈzeɪʃn/	In methane, **hybridisation** gives four equal bonds.
sigma bond /ˈsɪgmə bɒnd/	A single bond is a **sigma bond**.
delocalised /dɪˈlɒkəlaɪzd/	Benzene’s electrons are **delocalised** around the ring.

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pi bond /paɪ bɒnd/	A double bond has one sigma bond and one **pi bond**.
enthalpy change of hydrogenation /enˈθælpi tʃeɪndʒ ɒv haɪˈdrɒdʒəneɪʃn/	The **enthalpy change of hydrogenation** of benzene is smaller than expected.
enantiomers /eˈnæntɪəməz/	**Enantiomers** are mirror images of each other.
plane polarised light /pleɪn ˈpəʊləraɪzd laɪt/	A polarising filter makes **plane polarised light**.
optically active /ˈɒptɪkli ˈæktɪv/	An **optically active** substance turns polarised light.
racemic mixture /rəˈsiːmɪk ˈmɪkstʃə/	A **racemic mixture** has equal amounts of two optical isomers.
chirality /kaɪˈrælɪti/	**Chirality** means a molecule and its mirror image do not match.
chiral centre /ˈkaɪrəl ˈsentə/	A carbon with four different groups is a **chiral centre**.
chiral catalyst /ˈkaɪrəl ˈkætəlɪst/	A **chiral catalyst** makes mostly one optical isomer.
receptors	A drug works when its shape fits **receptors** in the body.