Organic chemistry

Pearson Edexcel · International GCSE · Chemistry · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
hydrocarbon /ˈhaɪdrəkɑːbən/	Fatty acid tails are long **hydrocarbon** chains, made of only carbon and hydrogen.
homologous series /həˈmɒləgəs ˈsɪəriːz/	The alkanes form a **homologous series**: each member has one more CH2.
functional group /ˈfʌŋkʃənl gruːp/	The –OH **functional group** makes a compound an alcohol.
isomerism /ˈaɪsəmərɪzəm/	**Isomerism** means two compounds have the same formula but different shapes.
isomer /ˈaɪsəmə/	Butane has a branched **isomer** with the same molecular formula.
displayed formula /dɪˈspleɪd ˈfɔːmjʊlə/	A **displayed formula** shows every atom and every bond.
fractional distillation /ˈfrækʃənl dɪstɪˈleɪʃn/	**Fractional distillation** separates crude oil into fractions.
incomplete combustion /ɪŋkəmˈpliːt kəmˈbʌstʃn/	**Incomplete combustion** happens when there is not enough oxygen.
cracking /ˈkrækɪŋ/	**Cracking** breaks long hydrocarbons into shorter, more useful ones.
alkane /ˈælkeɪn/	Methane and ethane are each an **alkane**.
alkene /ˈælkiːn/	Ethene is an **alkene**.

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saturated /ˈsætʃəreɪtɪd/	Ethane is **saturated**: it has only single bonds.
unsaturated /ʌnˈsætʃəreɪtɪd/	Ethene is **unsaturated**: it has a double bond.
substitution /ˌsʌbstɪˈtjuːʃn/	In a **substitution** reaction, one atom takes the place of another.
addition /əˈdɪʃn/	Bromine joins ethene in an **addition** reaction.
alcohol /ˈælkəhɒl/	Ethanol is an **alcohol**.
fermentation /fɜːmənˈteɪʃn/	Yeast makes alcohol by **fermentation** when there is no oxygen.
carboxylic acid /ˌkɑːbɒkˈsɪlɪk ˈæsɪd/	Ethanoic acid is a **carboxylic acid**.
ester /ˈestə/	Fruity smells often come from an **ester**.
ethyl ethanoate /ˈiːθaɪl ˈeθənəʊt/	**Ethyl ethanoate** is the ester made from ethanol and ethanoic acid.
addition polymer /əˈdɪʃn ˈpɒlɪmə/	Poly(ethene) is an **addition polymer** made from ethene.
monomer /ˈmɒnəʊmə/	Ethene is the **monomer** of poly(ethene).
polyester /ˌpɒlɪˈestə/	Polyester is used to make clothes; each **polyester** chain has many ester links.