Functional groups: classification of organic compounds

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Chemistry · SL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
skeletal formula /ˈskelɪtl ˈfɔːmjʊlə/	In a **skeletal formula**, each corner of a line is a carbon atom.
phenyl	A **phenyl** group is a benzene ring attached to another group.
functional group /ˈfʌŋkʃənl gruːp/	The –OH **functional group** makes a compound an alcohol. –OH
homologous series /həˈmɒləgəs ˈsɪəriːz/	The alkanes form a **homologous series**: each member has one more CH2. CH2
structural isomer	Butane and methylpropane are each a **structural isomer** of the other.
primary /ˈpraɪməri/	In a **primary** alcohol, the –OH carbon is joined to one other carbon. –OH
secondary /ˈsekəndəri/	In a **secondary** alcohol, the –OH carbon is joined to two other carbons. –OH
tertiary /ˈtɜːʃəri/	In a **tertiary** alcohol, the –OH carbon is joined to three other carbons. –OH

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