

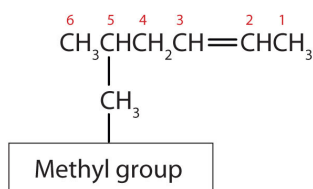
11.3: Naming Alkenes and Alkynes

Learning Objectives

- Understand and apply the IUPAC rules for naming alkenes
- Understand and apply the IUPAC rules for naming alkynes.

Here are some basic rules for naming alkenes from the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC):

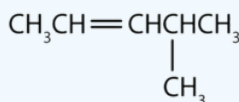
- The longest chain of carbon atoms *containing the double bond* is considered the parent chain. It is named using the same stem as the alkane having the same number of carbon atoms but ends in *-ene* to identify it as an alkene. Thus the compound $\text{CH}_2=\text{CHCH}_3$ is *propene*.
- If there are four or more carbon atoms in a chain, we must indicate the position of the double bond. The carbons atoms are numbered so that the first of the two that are doubly bonded is given the lower of the two possible numbers. The compound $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_2\text{CH}_3$, for example, has the double bond between the second and third carbon atoms. Its name is 2-pentene (not 3-pentene).
- Substituent groups are named as with alkanes, and their position is indicated by a number. Thus, the structure below is 5-methyl-2-hexene. Note that the numbering of the parent chain is always done in such a way as to give the double bond the lowest number, even if that causes a substituent to have a higher number. *The double bond always has priority in numbering.*



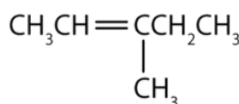
✓ Example 11.3.1

Name each compound.

a.



b.



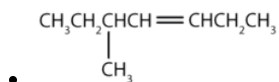
Solution

- The longest chain containing the double bond has five carbon atoms, so the compound is a *pentene* (rule 1). To give the first carbon atom of the double bond the lowest number (rule 2), we number from the left, so the compound is a 2-pentene. There is a methyl group on the fourth carbon atom (rule 3), so the compound's name is 4-methyl-2-pentene.
- The longest chain containing the double bond has five carbon atoms, so the parent compound is a *pentene* (rule 1). To give the first carbon atom of the double bond the lowest number (rule 2), we number from the left, so the compound is a 2-pentene. There is a methyl group on the third carbon atom (rule 3), so the compound's name is 3-methyl-2-pentene.

? Exercise 11.3.1

Name each compound.

- $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}=\text{CHCH}_3$



Just as there are cycloalkanes, there are *cycloalkenes*. These compounds are named like alkenes, but with the prefix *cyclo-* attached to the beginning of the parent alkene name.

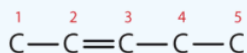
✓ Example 11.3.2

Draw the structure for each compound.

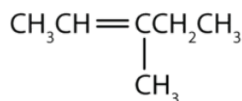
1. 3-methyl-2-pentene
2. cyclohexene

Solution

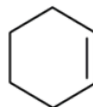
1. First write the parent chain of five carbon atoms: C—C—C—C—C. Then add the double bond between the second and third carbon atoms:



Now place the methyl group on the third carbon atom and add enough hydrogen atoms to give each carbon atom a total of four bonds.



- First, consider what each of the three parts of the name means. *Cyclo* means a ring compound, *hex* means 6 carbon atoms, and *-ene* means a double bond.



? Exercise 11.3.2

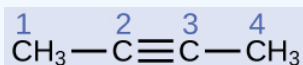
Draw the structure for each compound.

- a. 2-ethyl-1-hexene
- b. cyclopentene

The IUPAC nomenclature for alkynes is similar to that for alkenes except that the suffix *-yne* is used to indicate a triple bond in the chain. For example, $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{C}\equiv\text{CH}$ is called 1-butyne.

✓ Example 11.3.6: Structure of Alkynes

Describe the geometry and hybridization of the carbon atoms in the following molecule:

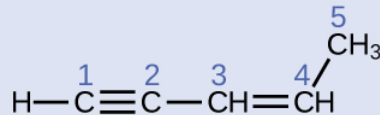


Solution

Carbon atoms 1 and 4 have four single bonds and are thus tetrahedral with sp^3 hybridization. Carbon atoms 2 and 3 are involved in the triple bond, so they have linear geometries and would be classified as sp hybrids.

? Exercise 11.3.6

Identify the hybridization and bond angles at the carbon atoms in the molecule shown:



Answer

carbon 1: sp , 180° ; carbon 2: sp , 180° ; carbon 3: sp^2 , 120° ; carbon 4: sp^2 , 120° ; carbon 5: sp^3 , 109.5°

11.3: Naming Alkenes and Alkynes is shared under a [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by LibreTexts.

- **13.1: Alkenes- Structures and Names** by Anonymous is licensed [CC BY-NC-SA 3.0](#). Original source: <https://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/introduction-to-chemistry-general-organic-and-biological>.
- **20.2: Hydrocarbons** by OpenStax is licensed [CC BY 4.0](#). Original source: <https://openstax.org/details/books/chemistry-2e>.