

Fold

Alkane

Saturated hydrocarbon. A compound of hydrogen and carbon only, with no C=C bonds.



Saturated

A saturated hydrocarbon contains no carbon-to-carbon double bonds, only single bonds.



Alkene

Unsaturated hydrocarbon with a double bond between the carbon atoms.

Unsaturated

An unsaturated compound contains at least one double or triple bond.



Addition reaction

Type of reaction in which two substances react together to form one new substance.



Alcohol

An organic compound containing a hydroxyl group, -OH. The 'alcohol' in alcoholic drinks is ethanol, produced by the fermentation of sugars and found in wines, spirits and beers.

Fold

Polymer

A large molecule formed from many identical smaller molecules known as monomers.



Hydrocarbon

A compound that contains hydrogen and carbon only.



Compound

A substance formed by the chemical union of two or more elements.

Crude oil

Mixture of hydrocarbons, mainly alkanes, formed over millions of years from the remains of ancient dead marine organisms.



Mixture

Two or more substances that are not joined together. The substances can be elements, compounds, or both.



Fraction

In fractional distillation, such as that of crude oil, the different parts of the original mixture are called fractions. The substances in each fraction have similar boiling points to each other.

Fractional distillation

In fractional distillation a mixture of several substances, such as crude oil, is distilled and the evaporated components are collected as they condense at different temperatures.



Viscosity

A measure of how difficult it is for a substance to flow - the higher the viscosity, the 'thicker' it is.



Cracking

The breaking down of large hydrocarbon molecules into smaller, more useful hydrocarbon molecules by vaporising them and passing them over a hot catalyst.