Isomers

Examine the models of the three alkanes shown below.

Notice that all three have 5 carbon atoms and 12 hydrogen atoms, so they all have the molecular formula C_5H_{12} . However, as you can see, these models represent three different compounds.

Isomers are two or more compounds that have the same molecular formula but different molecular structures. Since the structure of a substance determines its properties, the members of a group of isomers will have different physical and chemical properties.

As the number of carbons in a hydrocarbon increases, the number of possible isomers increases.

Number of	Number of
Carbon Atoms	Isomers
4	2
5	3
6	5
7	9
10	75
20	316 319
40	62 491 178 805 831

Example 1 Draw and name the 5 isomers that share the molecular formula C_6H_{14} .

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Isomers Worksheet

1. Draw and name the 9 isomers that share the molecular formula C_7H_{16} .

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