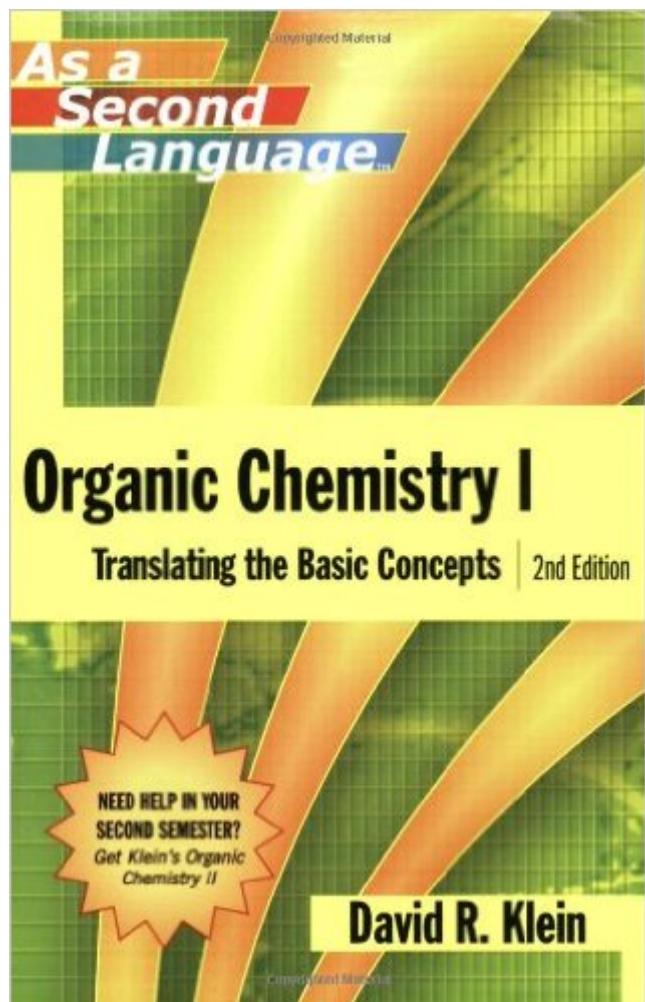


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Organic Chemistry I As A Second Language: Translating The Basic Concepts



Synopsis

Get a Better Grade in Organic Chemistry Organic Chemistry may be challenging, but that doesn't mean you can't get the grade you want. With David Klein's Organic Chemistry as a Second Language: Translating the Basic Concepts, you'll be able to better understand fundamental principles, solve problems, and focus on what you need to know to succeed. Here's how you can get a better grade in Organic Chemistry: Understand the Big Picture. Organic Chemistry as a Second Language points out the major principles in Organic Chemistry and explains why they are relevant to the rest of the course. By putting these principles together, you'll have a coherent framework that will help you better understand your textbook. Study More Efficiently and Effectively Organic Chemistry as a Second Language provides time-saving study tips and a clear roadmap for your studies that will help you to focus your efforts. Improve Your Problem-Solving Skills Organic Chemistry as a Second Language will help you develop the skills you need to solve a variety of problem types—even unfamiliar ones! Need Help in Your Second Semester? Get Klein's Organic Chemistry II as a Second Language! 978-0-471-73808-5

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Customer Reviews

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such a little book. I did ALL the exercises, and worked through everything. Trust me, the material is cemented in my brain. I read 70% of the required text for the exam but then everything in the textbook i knew so i kinda skimmed the top of it. It's been years since i did acid-base chemistry but this book lets you get the meat and potatoes without having having to go back and review. My teacher kept explaining something over and over and over again and i got fed up and gave my copy of this book to the girl who just didn't seem to get it and said read this. She turned to me and said "it makes sense." I aced my first test so easily and everyone in class is lost. Now orgo is my easiest subject. I'm taking 3 sciences with labs this semester so this book has made orgo the one class i don't have to sweat for. I could go on and on and on about this book but the only way to really know it is to get it used from someone like i did, but try to get a copy without writing or buy it. I was going to buy it from but then the dude put it up for sale on SDN. I bought this book along with the nuts and bolts of organic chem and while both are good, if i had to only get one, i'll get this. hands down.

First off, let me reiterate what others have said -- this is NOT a textbook and it is not going to come anywhere close to covering the volume or depth of material that you are likely to cover in a year of college-level organic chemistry. The author clearly states that this book is meant to be a SUPPLEMENT to your course textbook, not a replacement for it or even a "Cliff's Notes"-style summary of its content. If all you want is an overview of organic chemistry reaction mechanisms, save yourself \$40 and try a Google search instead - there are thousands of websites showing the mechanisms. With that out of the way, I found this book to be an amazing resource. Where my textbook seemed intent on rushing through as many mechanisms and factoids as possible, Organic Chemistry as a Second Language took its time in explaining the "why's" behind what was going on and communicated the underlying principles using humor and analogies so that the material felt approachable. Did this book match the content of my course perfectly? No. Did it teach me the specifics of all the reactions I needed to know? Not even close. What this book did do, however, was equip me with a working vocabulary of organic chemistry fundamentals so that I didn't necessarily need to remember the minute details of every reaction because I could infer them from the given conditions. If you're a natural o-chem whiz or you prefer just memorizing all the reaction mechanisms, you're probably not going to get much benefit from this book. But if you are someone who feels a little intimidated by organic chemistry and you really want to connect to the material, I think this is a great choice.

As a professor of Organic Chemistry, I have found that this little book is an excellent supplement for students. It is well organized, has many helpful tips, is very readable and presents information in enough detail to be more helpful than typical "review" books.

This book is exactly what it says it is. It is a supplement to an Organic Chemistry textbook that speaks to the reader in as plain language as possible. It doesn't go into the incredible depth that an official Org. textbook would do, but that's the beauty of it. The book focuses on understanding what type of reactions are commonly used on certain classes of chemicals and how those reaction mechanisms proceed; the overall goal being the improvement of the students ability to predict products and mechanisms for similar chemical reactions. It focuses on hammering in the major concept that chemical reactions are all very similar in that they involve (mostly) a nucleophile and an electrophile. It has many example problems with solutions that can be used as a test of understanding for the various mechanisms and reactions. It doesn't go into depth about quantities nor does it really discuss any quantifiable ways to predict the concentrations, pH, temperature, time, etc. which a reaction needs to run. This is the book's only drawback as far as I'm concerned. It would have been relatively easy to discuss ways of quantifying concentrations\amounts of catalytic compounds (acids, bases, ion donors, metals, etc.) alongside the mechanisms but it was not included, hence the loss of a star. The same goes for the other quantifiable components of chemical reactions. That being said, this book is well worth the price. It is a relatively easy read and the authors speak in plain language while still managing to convey a lot of information that you will walk away with. Mainly, it will provide you the basic tools to confidently continue to explore Org. Chemistry without being overwhelmed by the subject matter. As any good chemistry book will say, including this one, "Memorization of the material is the best way to NOT understand it." Obviously, what this means is that a student should not memorize reactions and products, rather they should understand the mechanisms behind these reactions so that when they are confronted with a new problem they will be able to work it out based on their ground floor principles. These ground floor principles form the foundation of true understanding and are definitely the key to success in Organic Chemistry. This book will help you build solid foundations, pick it up for sure.

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