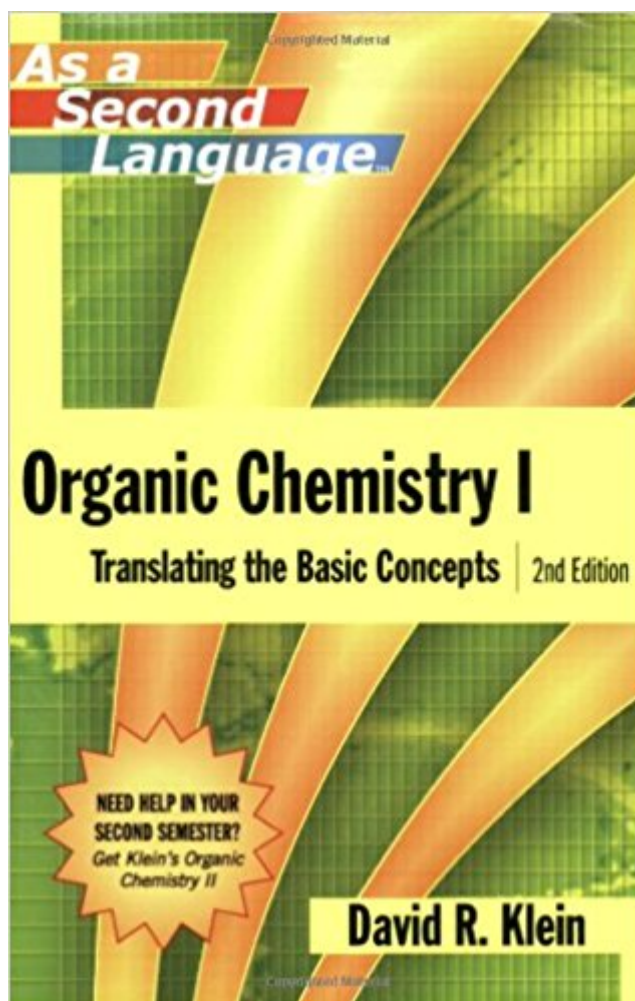




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# Organic Chemistry I As A Second Language: Translating The Basic Concepts



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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

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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.

Organic Chemistry can be a hard subject, but this book shows it doesn't need to be as hard as it is often made in lectures. This book makes all of the information infinitely more accessible than my professor did, and has done wonders for my understanding of the underlying concepts. However, I also feel I have to say that this book alone is not enough. While it has practice problems interspersed frequently with the explanations (which is great) it doesn't have enough of them. This is

all fine, as the book itself never claims to be anything more than a supplement, and I'm not sure if more practice problems would have actually made the book better. They may have ruined the flow that makes the book so readable. As such I'm not deducting stars for that, but keep in mind that you WILL need to do the practice problems in your textbook as well. As I said before, this is just a supplement, so you will still need to go to lecture as well, and probably at least give your textbook a light going over. It seems to me that it's best to read this book, and not the textbook, before going to lectures, to have a solid understanding of the material to be reinforced by your professor. I would also recommend that you look at your textbook and do all of the practice problems after lecture, because that's what's worked best for me so far. Just keep in mind that ochem does require that you practice. A lot. This book just makes it easier.

I bought this to brush up on the first semester of Organic Chemistry, which I took 5 years ago, in preparation for taking the second semester this year. It is written in clear, easy-to-understand language, sometimes using analogies (for example: molecules with resonance structures are like fruit. A nectarine simultaneously combines qualities of peaches and plums; likewise, the molecule simultaneously combines qualities of 2 resonance structures). It gives a couple of examples of each concept, then sets you loose on some problems (with the answers provided in the back) -- not a lot of practice problems, but I think it was enough to really familiarize myself with the topic. It seems to cover the most fundamental concepts in Organic Chemistry, and although it doesn't delve into "extraneous" detail that you might ultimately need to know, it does give very helpful shortcuts to solving problems and understanding concepts. This probably can't replace a textbook, but is an excellent review and will definitely help you learn the material.

This book is like the Wonderful Wizard of Oz; it makes sense of all the madness that happens in Organic Chemistry. I just got the book and I find that I understand things better than I THOUGHT I already understood, not to mention the things that I didn't understand. I have studied more for Organic Chemistry than I have for ANY other class I've taken in my academic career and still couldn't seem to master the subject. I made note cards, took class notes, and book notes, went to office hours, hired an ORGANIC CHEMIST tutor, watched online and YouTube videos about Organic Chemistry, I studied, practiced, and DREAMED about mechanisms. I did EVERYTHING I was supposed to do with limited results...then...along came this heaven sent book and BAM! I understand. What I would give if I could've only discovered the book at the beginning of the semester. Klein simply has a way of explaining things in a way that I can't explain..probably

because I'm not him, lol. But one important thing is that he cuts through the BS, he get to the point of what you NEED to know..the fundamentals. Let's face it, most of the people taking Organic Chemistry could care less (or more) about Organic Chemistry...we simply need to get into Medical/Dental/Pharmacy school. I think Klein knows and understands that, thus he doesn't waste time the history behind the chemist that discovered this reagent or other mundane details like your textbook does. Some things need to be memorized and some things simply need to be understood in order to be successful; Klein breaks down the difference. I trust his method..everytime I doubted it (thinking to myself: "That doesn't sound right doing it that way."), I was proven wrong. Long story short...BUY THE BOOK!

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