

Naming Covalent Compounds

The steps for writing out the name of a molecular compound are as follows:

Example Molecule: CO

Prefixes Used in Naming Molecular Compounds	
Prefix	Number
mono-	1
di-	2
tri-	3
tetra-	4
penta-	5
hexa-	6
hepta-	7
octa-	8
nona-	9
deca-	10

1. Write the prefix for the first element in the compound, unless there is only one of that element. The prefix mono- is never used with the first element in the compound.

2. Write the name of the first element in the compound.

Carbon

3. Write the prefix for the second element in the compound. This time, the prefix mono- may be used.

4. Write the name of the second element in the compound.

monoxide