

ROTD 2/21/06

1) The 3-dimensional world has a "handedness" - mirror images of some objects are not superposable. We call these objects "chiral" (from the Greek for "hand").

2) Molecules can also be chiral. If a molecule and its mirror image are not superposable, then they are not the same molecule. They are stereoisomers.

3) Chiral and achiral refer to objects. Enantiomer and diastereomer are terms that describe the relationship between chiral stereoisomers.