

complex

A *molecular entity* formed by loose *association* involving two or more component molecular entities (ionic or uncharged), or the corresponding *chemical species*. The bonding between the components is normally weaker than in a covalent *bond*.

The term has also been used with a variety of shades of meaning in different contexts: it is therefore best avoided when a more explicit alternative is applicable. In inorganic chemistry the term ‘coordination entity’ is recommended instead of ‘complex’.

See also *activated complex, adduct, charge transfer complex, electron-donor-acceptor complex, encounter complex, inclusion complex, σ -adduct, π -adduct, transition state*.

1994, 66, 1098