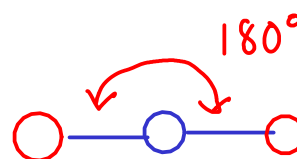
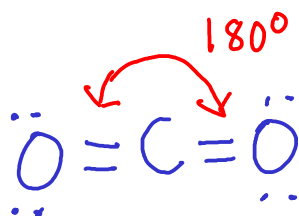


PREDICTING MOLECULAR SHAPE

The shape of simple molecules (and parts of larger molecules) can be easily predicted using the VSEPR model

VSEPR = Valence Shell Electron Pair Repulsion Model

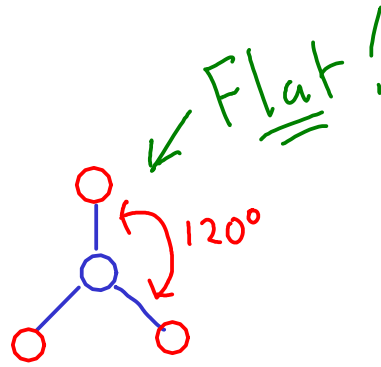
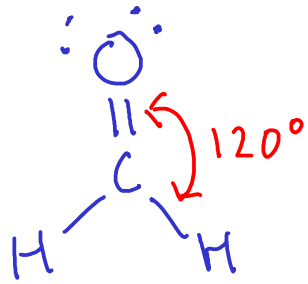
- Each BOND or LONE PAIR OF ELECTRONS around an atom will try to move itself as far away from other bonds or lone pairs as possible!



For the two red circles to be farthest apart, they must be 180 degrees apart

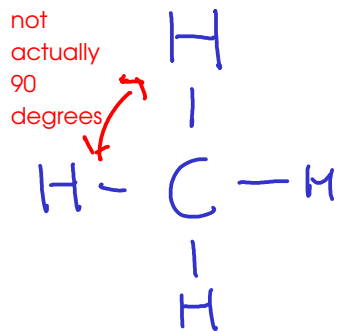
LINEAR MOLECULES

ANY diatomic (two-atom) molecule is linear, but only some three-atom molecules are!



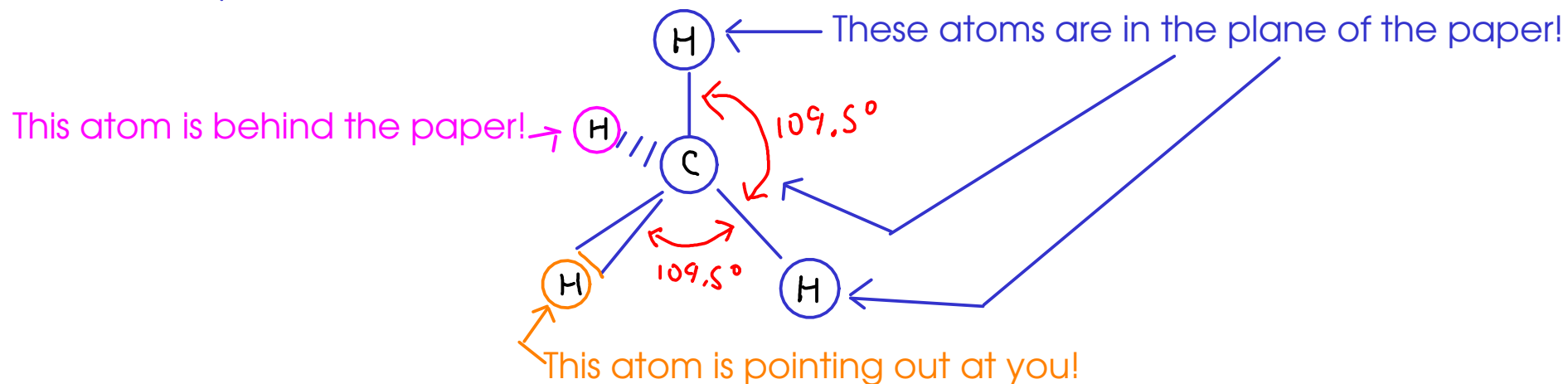
For the three red circles to be farthest apart, they spread out so that each is 120 degrees from the others!

TRIGONAL
PLANAR
MOLECULES



These hydrogen atoms might appear at first glance to be 90 degrees apart, but remember that molecules exist in THREE DIMENSIONS, not two!

Each hydrogen atom is actually 109.5 degrees apart, forming a TETRAHEDRON.



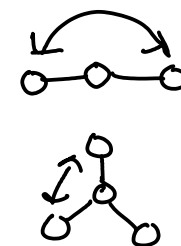
To see the tetrahedron in three dimensions WITHOUT buying a molecular model kit, just take four balloons, blow them up, and then tie them together. The knot will be the central atom, and the balloons will line themselves up to be 109.5 degrees apart.

VSEPR shapes

* "Groups" can be either BONDS or LONE PAIRS!

VSEPR shapes:

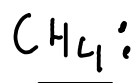
Groups* around central atom	Shape	Bond angle(s) in degrees
2	linear	180
3	trigonal planar	120
<u>4</u>	tetrahedral / pyramidal / bent	109.5
5	trigonal bipyramidal (and derivatives)	90 and 120
6	octahedral (and derivatives)	90



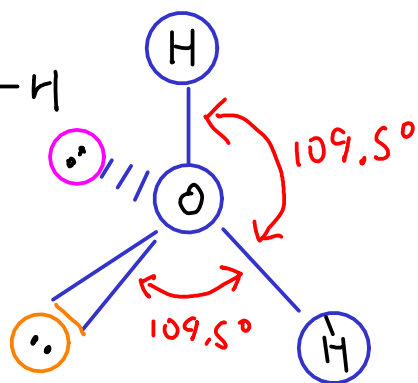
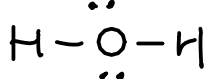
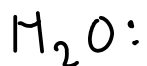
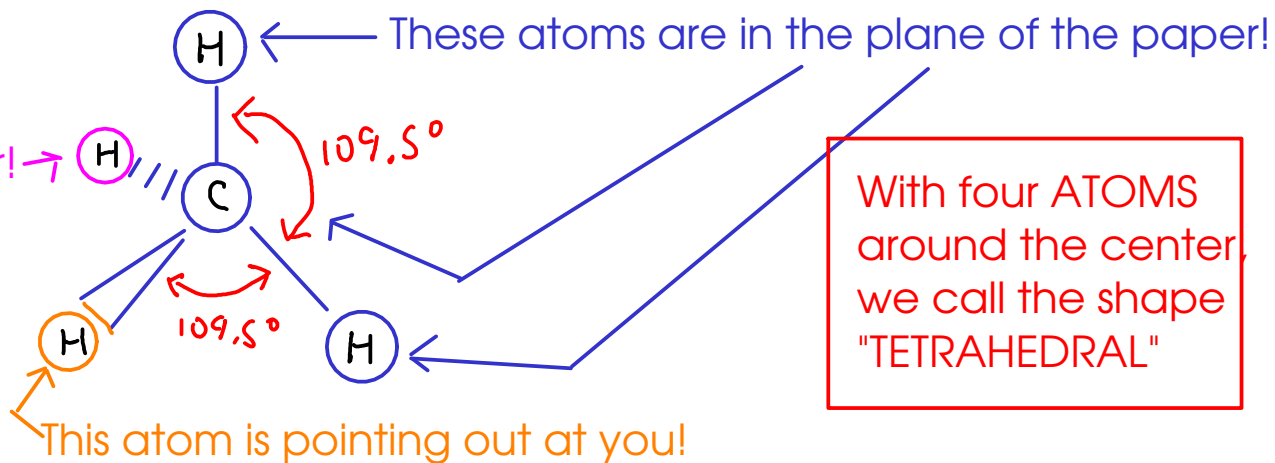
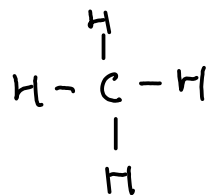
5 and 6 violate "octet rule"

5 More on "4 things around a central atom":

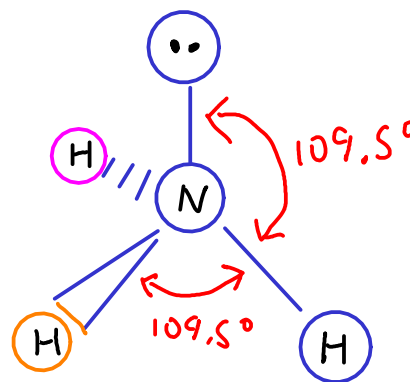
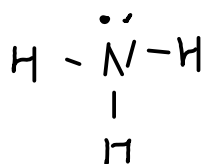
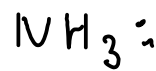
- A compound that obeys the octet rule can have a maximum of four groups around its central atom. But we describe the molecular shape based on how ATOMS are arranged around the center. What if some of those groups aren't atoms, but pairs of UNSHARED electrons?



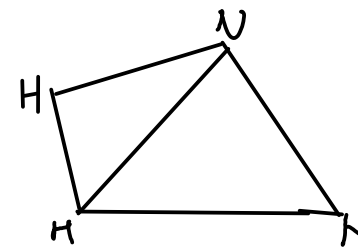
This atom is behind the paper! →



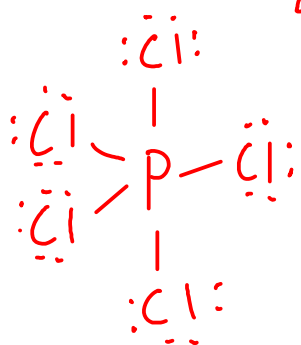
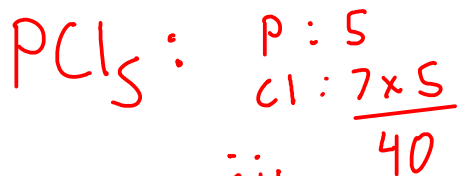
With two ATOMS and two LONE PAIRS, we call the shape "BENT"



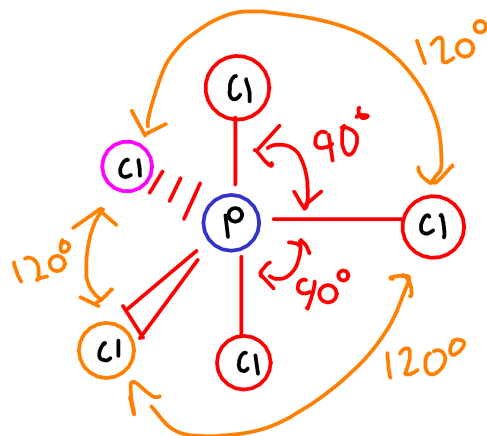
With three ATOMS and one LONE PAIR, we call the shape "PYRAMIDAL"



6 SHAPES OF EXPANDED VALENCE MOLECULES

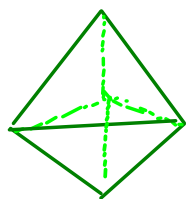


There are five atoms bonded to the central phosphorus atom, and they will attempt to get as far apart as possible from one another!



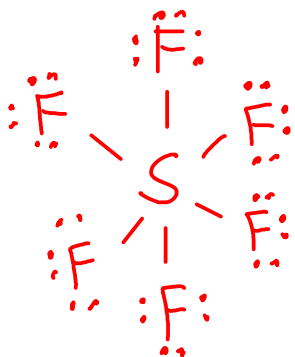
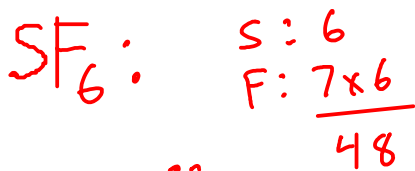
The top and bottom atoms are 90 degrees apart from the atoms around the center.

The atoms around the center are 120 degrees apart from each other.

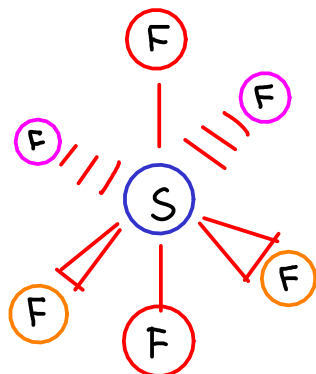


There are actually two DIFFERENT bond angles in this structure. It's called TRIGONAL BIPYRAMIDAL.

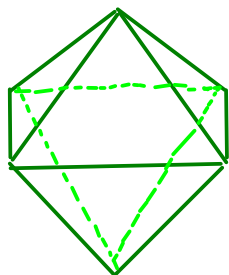
There are several derivatives of the trigonal bipyramidal shape (like the tetrahedral shape) - depending on how many things around the central atom are atoms!



There are six atoms bonded to the central sulfur atom, and they will attempt to get as far apart as possible from one another!



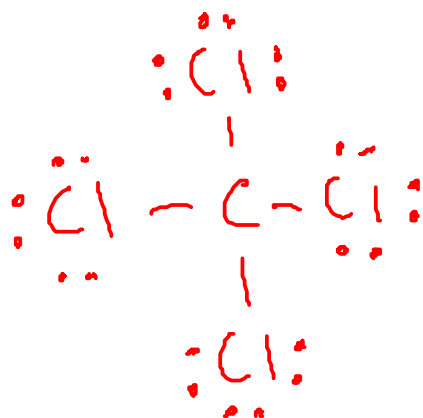
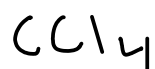
All bond angles in this arrangement are 90 degrees!



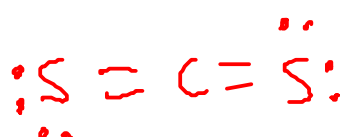
This shape is called OCTAHEDRAL, since it has eight sides.

Like the tetrahedral and trigonal bipyramidal arrangements, there are several derivatives of the octahedron - depending on how many of the six things around the center are atoms!

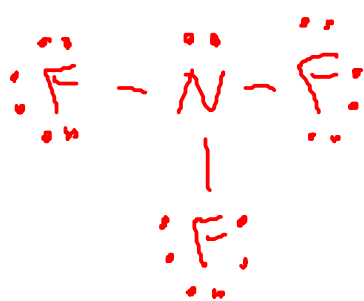
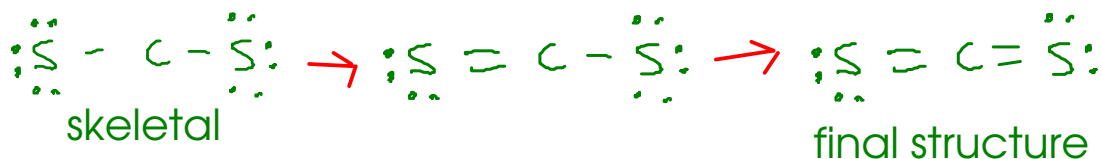
8 Examples:



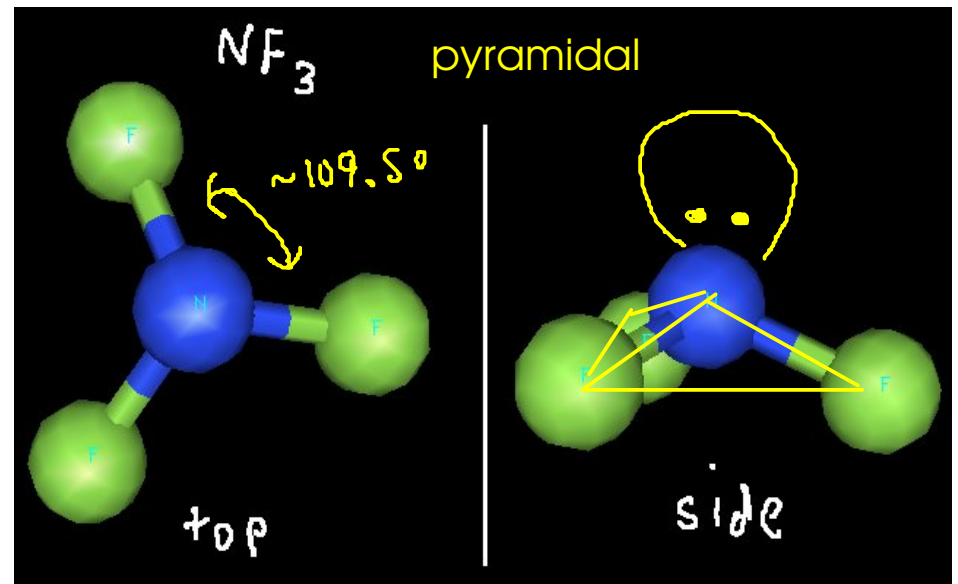
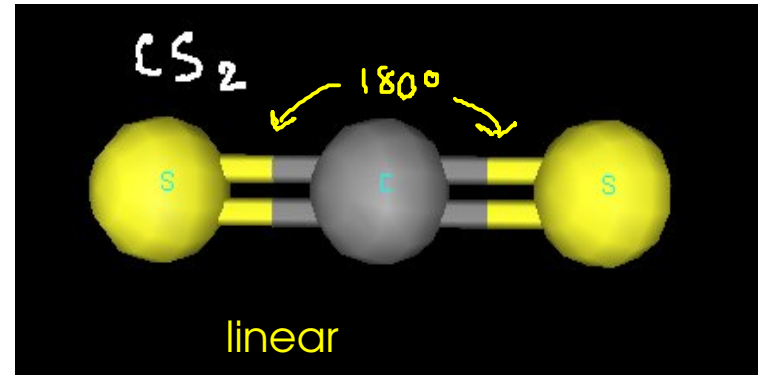
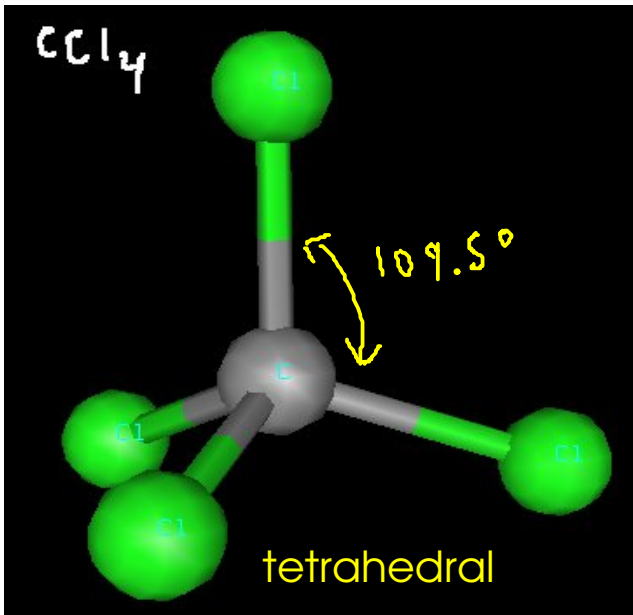
SHAPE? The central atom is surrounded by FOUR OTHER ATOMS (and no lone pairs), so the shape of the molecule is TETRAHEDRAL.

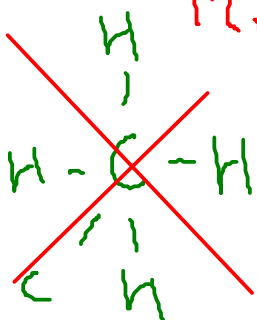
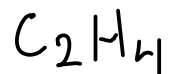


SHAPE? There are two atoms (and no lone pairs) around the central atom. This molecule is LINEAR.

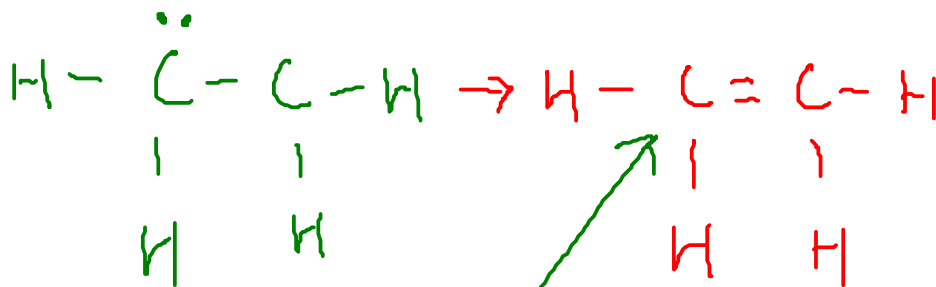
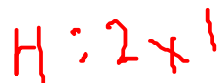
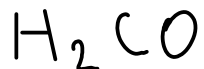


SHAPE? There are four groups around the central nitrogen, but only three of them are atoms (one lone pair). The molecule has the tetrahedral bond angles, but is described as a PYRAMIDAL molecule.





Multiple carbons usually mean multiple "central atoms".

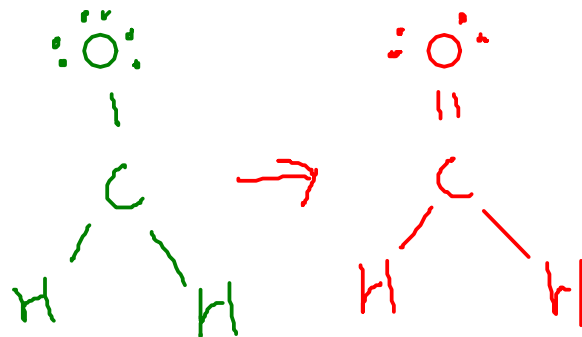
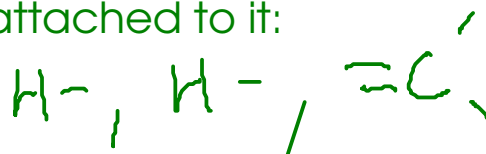


skeletal structure

final structure

SHAPE? This molecule has TWO central carbon atoms, and the shape around each is TRIGONAL PLANAR.

This carbon has THREE other atoms attached to it:



skeletal structure

final structure

SHAPE? This molecule has three atoms (and no lone pairs) attached to the central carbon atom, so it's TRIGONAL PLANAR.

