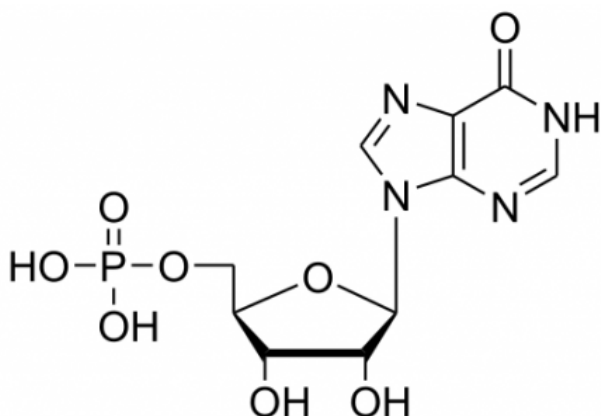
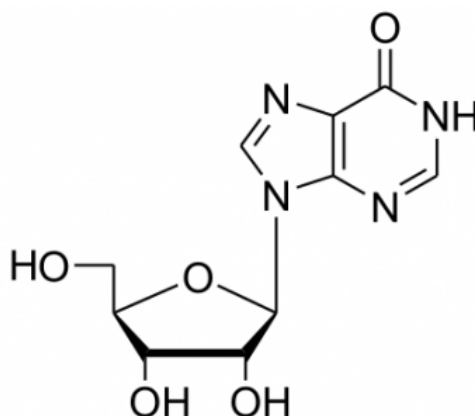


All nucleotides are comprised of the following sub-structures: A nucleobase, a 5-membered ring sugar unit (either ribose or 2-deoxyribose), and one or more phosphate groups.

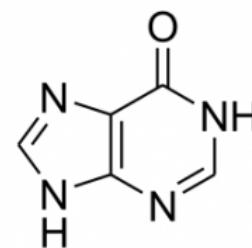
In the case of inosine nucleotides, the nucleobase is hypoxanthine. When a ribose unit is attached to hypoxanthine via a β -N₉-glycosidic bond, it is known as the **nucleoside** inosine. It is the presence of phosphate groups that distinguishes a **nucleotide** from a **nucleoside**.



Inosine monophosphate



Inosine



Hypoxanthine