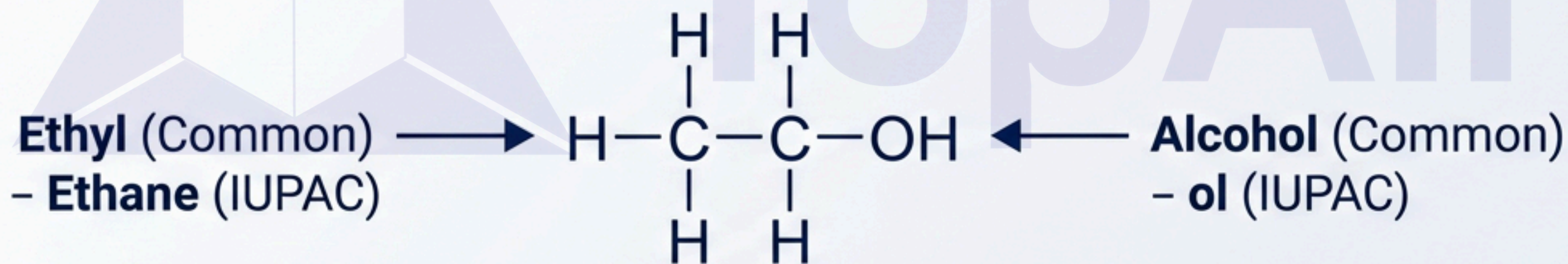


How to Name Alcohols

A Visual Playbook for Systematic and
Common Nomenclature



The Common Name Rule

**Alkyl
Group**

+

Alcohol

=

**Alkyl
alcohol**

CH₃

+

OH

=

Methyl alcohol



Methanol Toxicity Note

Methanol (wood spirit) is highly poisonous. Ingestion of even small quantities can cause blindness, and larger quantities can cause death. It is primarily used as a solvent and for making formaldehyde.

The IUPAC Rule: Systematic Naming



~~Alkane~~ - e + ol = Alkanol

Transformation Examples

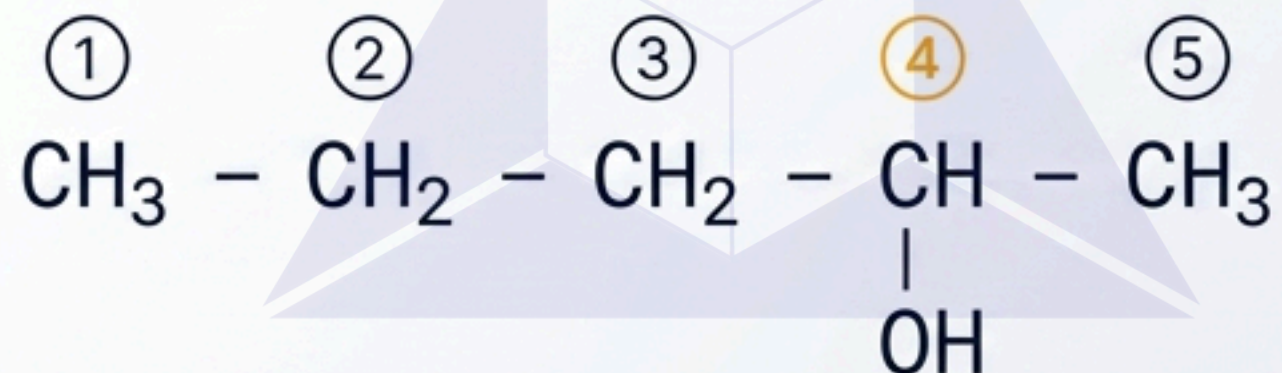


The Priority Rule: Numbering the Chain

The longest carbon chain is numbered starting at the end nearest to the hydroxyl (-OH) group.



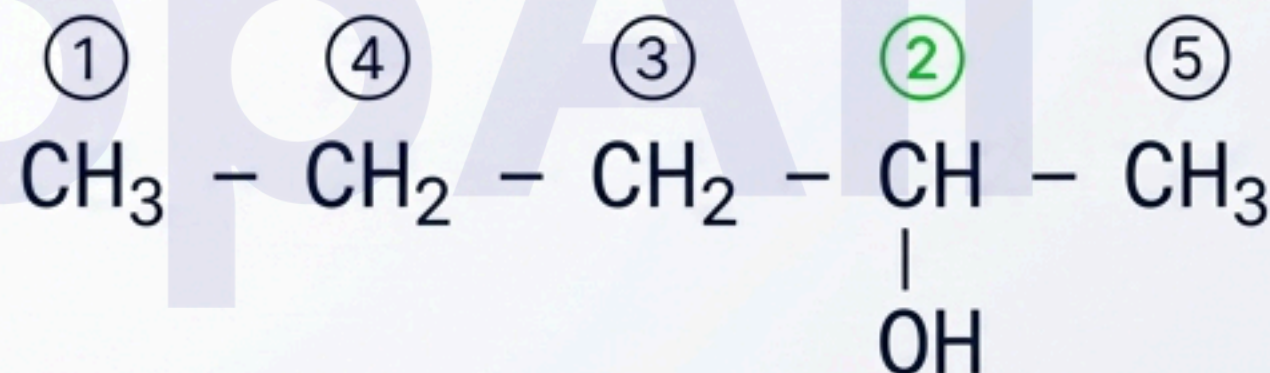
Incorrect Numbering



Pentan-**4**-ol



Correct: Nearest to -OH



Pentan-**2**-ol



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$$E=mc^2$$



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Table 7.1: Nomenclature Examples

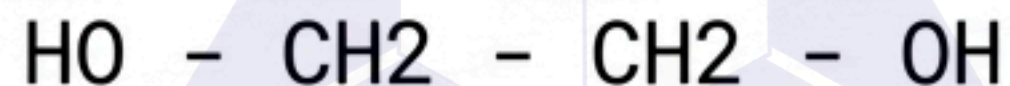
Structural Formula	Common Name	IUPAC Name
$\text{CH}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-OH}$	n-Propyl alcohol	Propan-1-ol
$\text{CH}_3\text{-CH(OH)-CH}_3$	Isopropyl alcohol	Propan-2-ol
$\text{CH}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-OH}$	n-Butyl alcohol	Butan-1-ol
$\text{CH}_3\text{-CH}_2\text{-CH(OH)-CH}_3$	sec-Butyl alcohol	Butan-2-ol

Naming Diols and Triols

The 'e' is Retained.

For polyhydric alcohols, do NOT drop the 'e' from the alkane parent. Simply add the **multiplier (di/tri)** before 'ol'.

Diol



Common Name: Ethylene glycol

IUPAC Name: Eth**ane**-1,2-diol

Triol



Common Name: Glycerol

IUPAC Name: Prop**ane**-1,2,3-triol

The Systematic Naming Checklist

1

Find the Parent Chain

Identify the longest continuous carbon chain containing the -OH group. Name it as the parent alkane.



2

Number the Carbons

Number the chain starting from the end closest to the -OH group. Ensure the -OH gets the lowest possible locant.



3

Assemble the Name

[Substituents] + [Alkane parent (drop 'e' if mono)]
+ [Locant number] + [ol/diol/triol]

Key Takeaways



Common Names

Think structurally:

[Alkyl Group] + Alcohol



IUPAC System

Think mathematically:
Parent Alkane, drop the "e",
add the locant number,
and append "-ol".



The Polyhydric Exception

For diols and triols, always
keep the "e" on the parent
alkane name before
adding your multipliers.



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