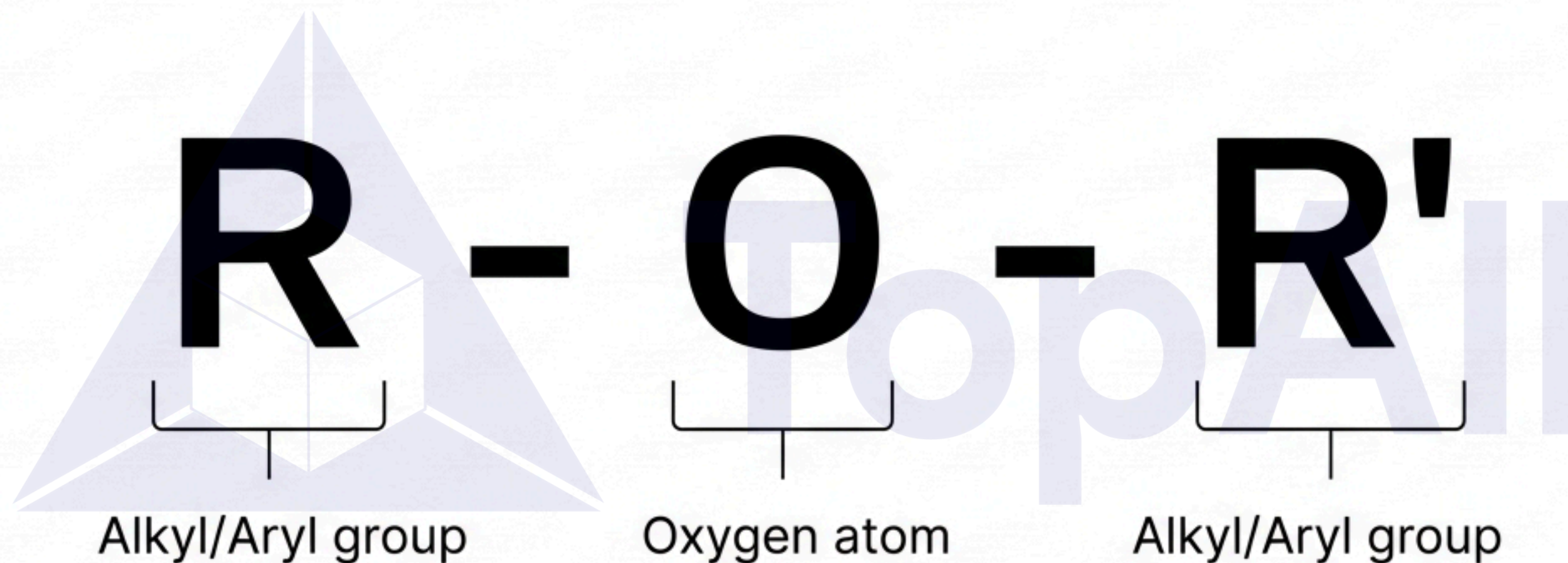


Alkoxy + Parent Hydrocarbon

Functional Group Overview



Ethers are compounds formed by substituting the hydrogen atom of a hydrocarbon with an alkoxy or aryloxy group.

Common Name Rule

[Alphabetical
Group 1]

+

[Alphabetical
Group 2]

=

ether

CH₃

-

O

-

C₂H₅

ethyl

methyl

ether

Important Note: Groups must be written in alphabetical order, regardless of their size or carbon count.

Same Groups: use **di-**

Symmetrical



ethyl + ethyl + ether

Diethyl ether

Unsymmetrical



Ethyl methyl ether

If both alkyl/aryl groups attached to the oxygen atom are the same, the prefix 'di-' is added before the alkyl group.

IUPAC Rule

Rule: Hydrocarbon derivative where H is replaced by -OR

Smaller Group =
Alkoxy Prefix
(Methoxy)



1



Larger Group =
Parent Hydrocarbon
(Propane)

1-Methoxypropane

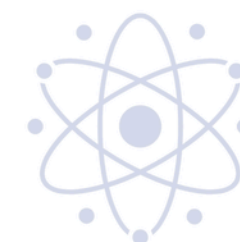


The larger (R) group is chosen as the parent hydrocarbon. The smaller group becomes the alkoxy prefix.



You've Learned the Theory. Let's Test Them Now.

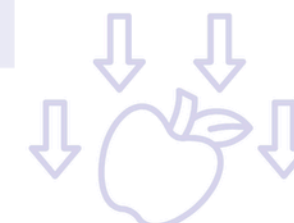
$$E=mc^2$$



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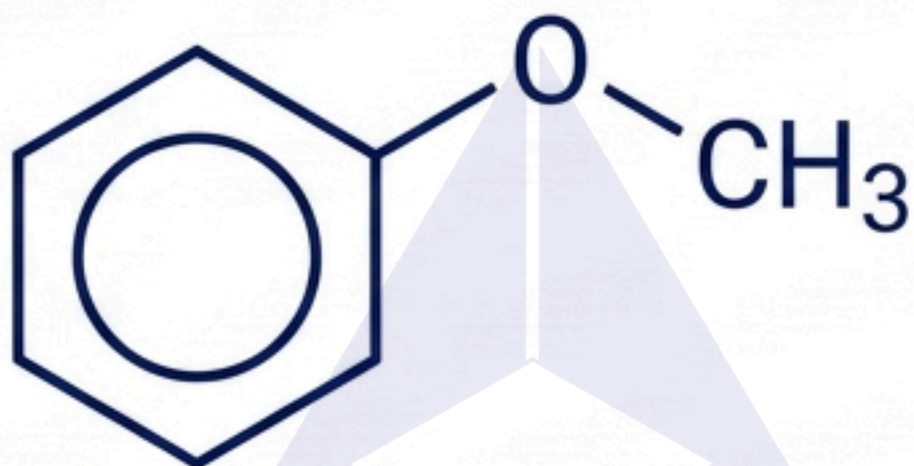
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Table 7.2 Examples

Formula	Common Name	IUPAC Name
CH_3OCH_3	Dimethyl ether	Methoxymethane
$\text{CH}_3\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$	Methyl n-propyl ether	1-Methoxypropane
$\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{O}(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{-CH}_3$	Heptyl phenyl ether	1-Phenoxyheptane
$\text{CH}_3\text{O-CH}(\text{CH}_3)_2$	Methyl isopropyl ether	2-Methoxypropane
$\text{CH}_3\text{-O-CH}_2\text{-CH}_2\text{-OCH}_3$	—	1,2-Dimethoxyethane

Anisole and Phenetole



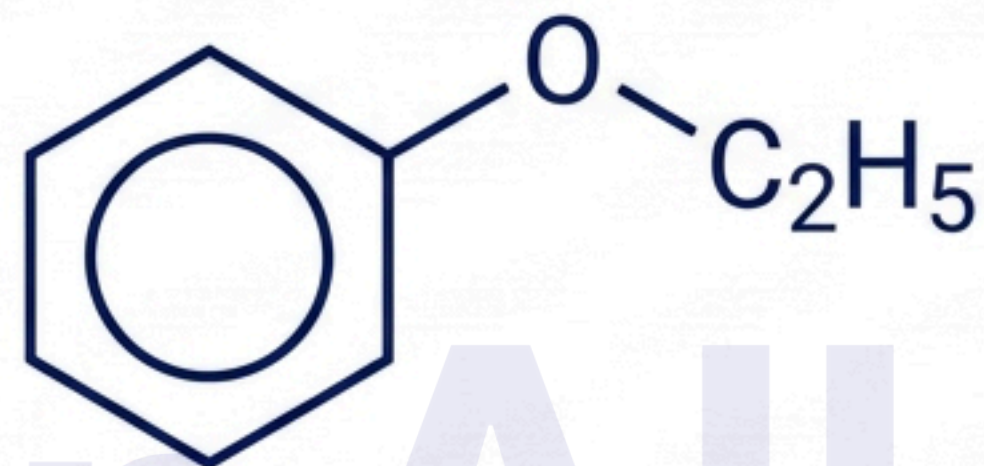
Anisole

IUPAC Accepted

Common: Methyl phenyl ether

Systematic: Methoxybenzene

Anisole is historically a common name, but is fully accepted as a valid IUPAC name.



Phenetole

Common: Ethyl phenyl ether

Systematic: Ethoxybenzene

Key Takeaway

Common System

[Alkyl 1] + [Alkyl 2] + ether

Alphabetical order. Focuses purely on the groups attached to the oxygen.

IUPAC System

[Alkoxy prefix] + [Alkane]

Size matters. Treats ethers as standard hydrocarbons with an alkoxy substituent on the parent chain.

Master Rule

The common system treats the oxygen as the center of the universe. The IUPAC system treats the longest carbon chain as the center of the universe.



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