

UNIT 7 • ALCOHOLS, PHENOLS AND ETHERS

Nomenclature of Alcohols, Phenols and Ethers

The Semantic Code

-ol

Suffix for primary hydroxyl groups.

di / tri

Multiplicative prefixes (placed before the suffix).

alkoxy

Substituent naming prefix for ethers.



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$$E=mc^2$$



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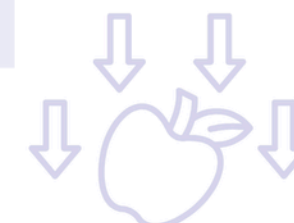
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Alcohol Nomenclature Matrix

Common Name

methyl alcohol

n-propyl alcohol

sec-butyl alcohol

isobutyl alcohol

IUPAC Syntax

Methanol

Propan-1-ol

Butan-2-ol

2-Methylpropan-1-ol

The Polyhydric Syntax Rule

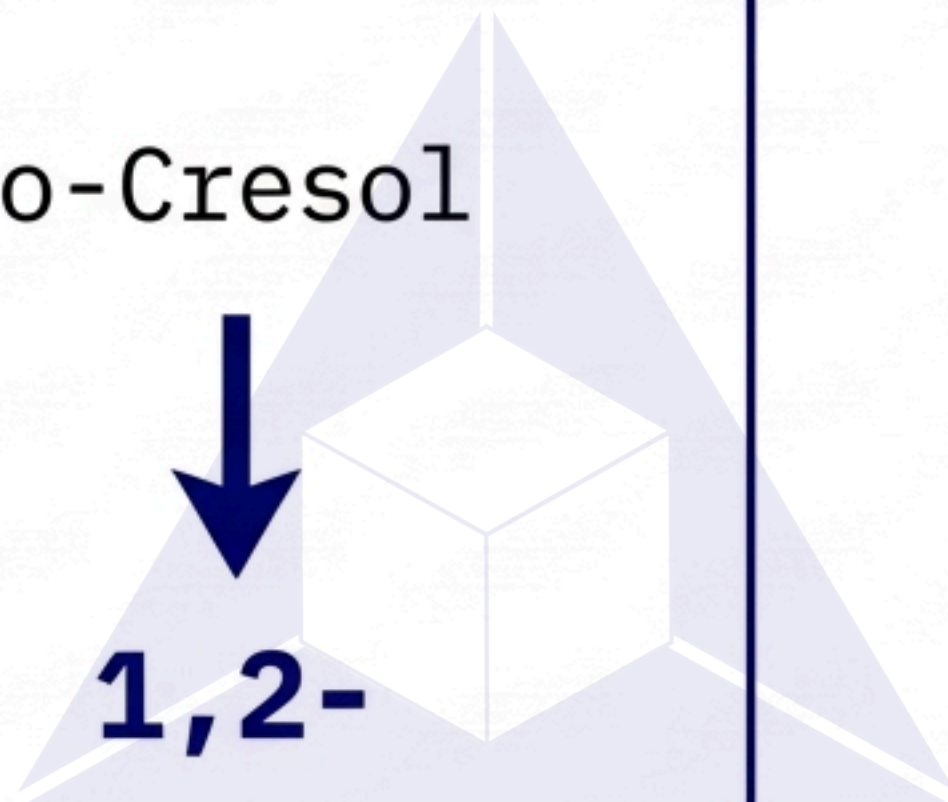
Ethylene glycol → ethan**e**-1,2-diol

Glycerol → propan**e**-1,2,3-triol

For polyhydric alcohols, the 'e' of the parent alkane is **RETAINED** before adding the diol/triol suffix.

Aromatic Patterns: The Cresols

o-Cresol



2-Methylphenol

m-Cresol



3-Methylphenol

p-Cresol



4-Methylphenol

Ether Logic: Unsymmetrical Chains

The **larger (R) group** is chosen as the parent hydrocarbon.

Dimethyl ether



Methoxymethane

Diethyl ether



Ethoxyethane

Anisole (Methyl phenyl ether)



Methoxybenzene

JEE Trap Alert ⚠

Name the IUPAC structure for **HO-CH₂-CH₂-OH**

ethan-1,2-diol

⚠ Watch for this: The 'e' is missing.

ethane-1,2-diol

Always **retain the 'e'** of the alkane before adding 'diol' or 'triol'.

Nomenclature Syntax Compiled

- **Rule 1 (Polyhydric Alcohols):** Retain the 'e' of the parent alkane when attaching multiplicative suffixes (-diol, -triol).
- **Rule 2 (Unsymmetrical Ethers):** Always designate the larger alkyl/aryl (R) group as the parent hydrocarbon chain, reducing the smaller group to the alkoxy prefix.



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