

UNIT 7 • ALCOHOLS, PHENOLS AND ETHERS

Classification of Phenols and Ethers

Key Vocabulary

**Mono / Di /
Trihydric
Phenols**

**Simple /
Symmetrical
Ethers**

**Mixed /
Unsymmetrical
Ethers**



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$$E=mc^2$$



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Key Highlights

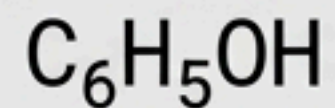
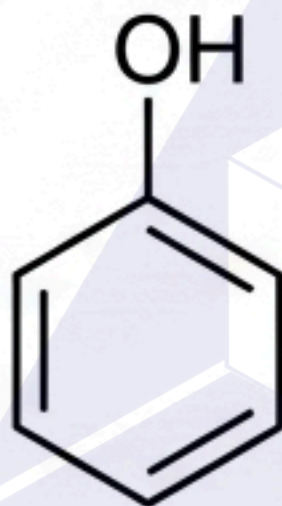
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Classifying Phenols by Hydroxyl Count

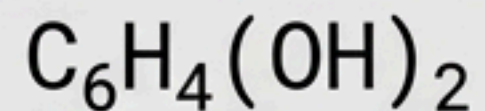
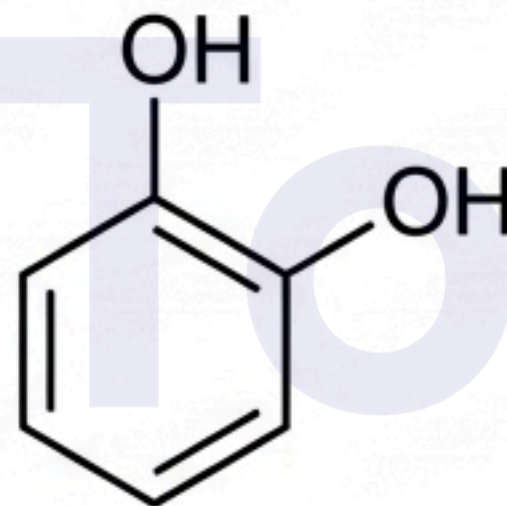
Monohydric

(1 -OH group)



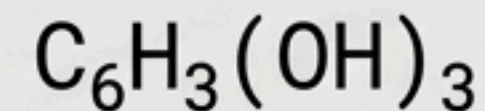
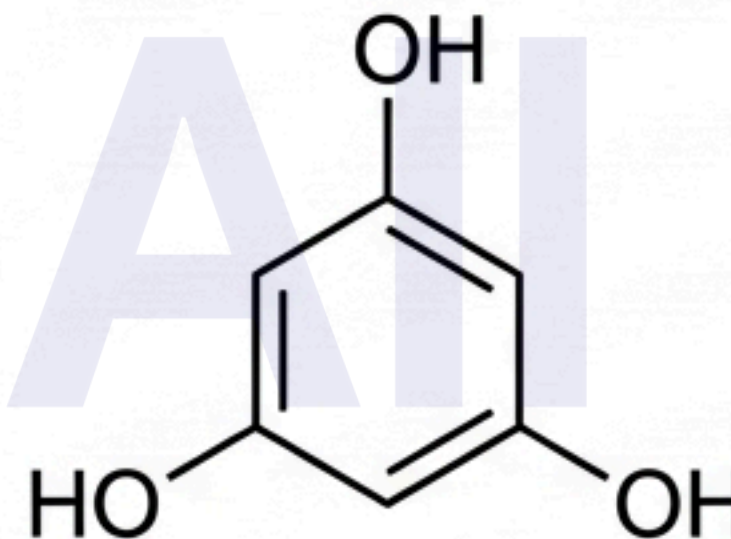
Dihydric

(2 -OH groups)



Trihydric

(3 -OH groups)



Classifying Ethers by Symmetry

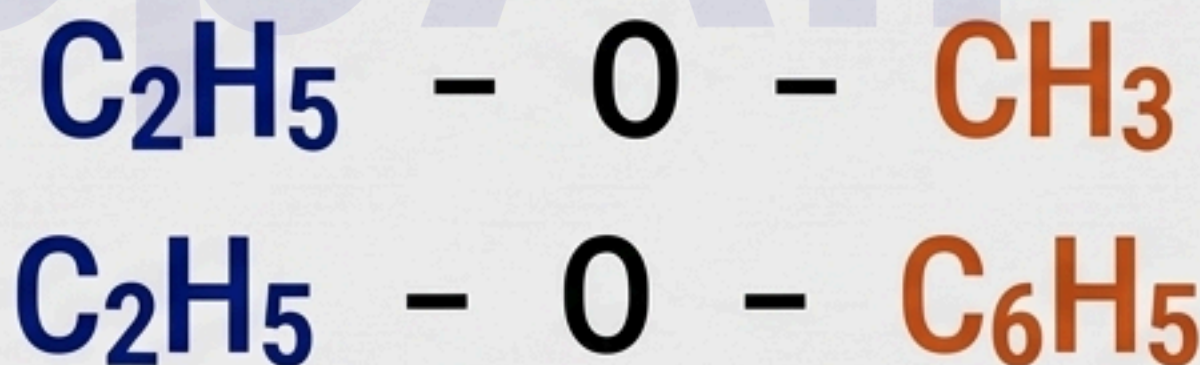
Symmetrical (Simple)

Identical groups attached to the oxygen atom.



Unsymmetrical (Mixed)

Different groups attached to the oxygen atom.



Watch For This

The symmetry classification depends strictly on whether **BOTH** groups attached to the oxygen are identical. Sharing just one group with a reference molecule is not enough to make it symmetrical.



Contains an ethyl group, but the other side is methyl. Result = **UNSYMMETRICAL**.

Key Takeaways

1. Phenols are classified as mono-, di-, or trihydric based on the exact number of attached -OH groups.
2. Ethers are symmetrical only if both R groups match (e.g., diethyl ether); otherwise, they are unsymmetrical (mixed).



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