

Lesson 3 Naming esters

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An ester is synthesised from an alcohol and a carboxylic acid. To name the ester formed follow the steps below. Consider an ester formed from ethanol and butanoic acid.

1) Write the alcohol then the acid

ethanol butanoic

2) Replace the *anol* of the alcohol with *yl* to get *ethyl*. Next replace the *ic* of the acid with *ate* to get *butanoate*.

3) Place the two words together to get the ester's name.

ethyl butanoate.

1) Name the esters formed from the following compounds.

a) Methanol and ethanoic acid *methyl ethanoate*

b) Propanoic acid ethanol *ethyl propanoate*

c) butanoic acid and propanol *propyl butanoate*

d) methanol and hexanoic acid *methyl hexanoate*

2) Name each ester shown below and identify the alcohol and organic acid used. The first one is done for you.

Step 1 Identify the alcohol and acid

This is done by taking the carbon chain containing the double bonded oxygen and separating it from the chain containing the single oxygen, as shown on the right.

Step 2 Now place H on the single oxygen so as to form the alcohol then place an OH on the carbon containing the double bonded oxygen so as to form the acid. Hence name the ester.

propyl methanoate

pentyl propanoate (pentanol , propanoic acid)

butyl ethanoate (butanol, ethanoic acid)

methyl pentanoate (methanol, pentanoic acid)

