4.5 NAMING OF ESTERS

Esters are named on the basis of the alcohol and the carboxylic acid from which they are formed. The naming system is a little complex, but once you've got the idea, it is straightforward.

- 1) Identify the portion of the ester that came from the carboxylic acid, and that which came from an alcohol.
- 2) Take the name of the IONIC form of the carboxylic acid.
- 3) In front of that, put the name of the alkyl group which came from the alcohol.

These rules are best illustrated with examples:

Name the following:

Answers:

Propyl pentanoate propyl butanoate(butyrate) propyl propanoate(propionate) methyl benzoate pentyl propanoate ethyl methanoate(formate)