

• **Identify the root:**

Identify the part of the ester that contains the C–O group. This is the part of the ester that came from the acid. The root of the name of the ester is based on the name of the acid. Determine the name of the parent acid.

• **Identify the suffix:**

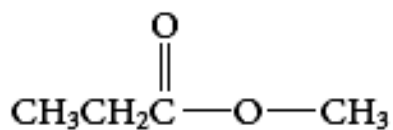
Remove the *–oic acid* from the name of the parent acid and replace it with *–oate*.

• **Identify the prefix:**

To form the prefix, consider the part of the ester that is associated with the alcohol. Ignore the oxygen atom and use only the alkyl group. Identify the name of the alkyl group. The name of the alkyl group is the prefix for the name of the ester. There is always a space between the name of the alkyl group and the root.

Sample Problem

Name the following ester:



Identify the root: The C–O is part of a three carbon group making the parent acid a propanoic acid.

Identify the suffix: Remove the *–oic acid* from the name of the parent acid and replace it with *–oate*. The root plus the suffix is now propanoate.

Identify the prefix: The part of the ester that is associated with an alcohol has one carbon atom therefore the prefix is methyl.

Solution: The full name of the ester is methyl propanoate.