

ORGANIC CHEMISTRY 1 LECTURE GUIDE 2019

BY RHETT C. SMITH

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# Organic Chemistry 1 Lecture Guide 2019

By Rhett C. Smith, Ph.D.

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Companion Books from the Proton Guru:

*Organic Chemistry 1 Reactions and Practice Problems 2019*

by Rhett C. Smith

*Organic Chemistry 1 Primer 2019,*

by Rhett C. Smith, Andrew G. Tennyson, and Tania Houjeiry

## Lecture Topic II.15: Ring-Opening of Epoxides

### Ring Strain Makes Epoxides More Reactive than other Ethers

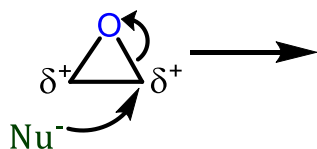
An epoxide is a specific type of ether consisting of a 3-membered ring having an oxygen atom in the ring:

(A)

Epoxides are much more reactive than most other ethers because:

(B)

Nucleophiles can thus attack one of the electrophilic carbon atoms, alleviating the ring strain:



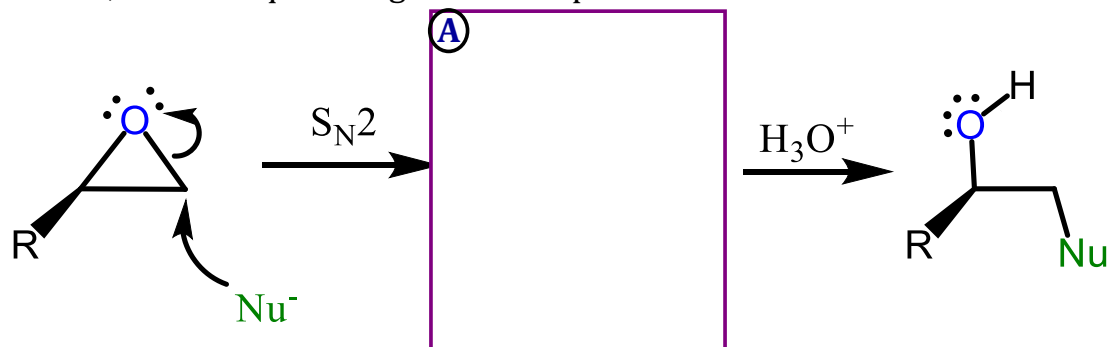
(C)

Notes

## Lecture Topic II.15: Ring-Opening of Epoxides

### Even a Poor Nucleophile will Attack a Cationic Species

Under basic (or simply non-acidic) conditions a typical  $S_N2$  reaction occurs, which requires a good nucleophile:

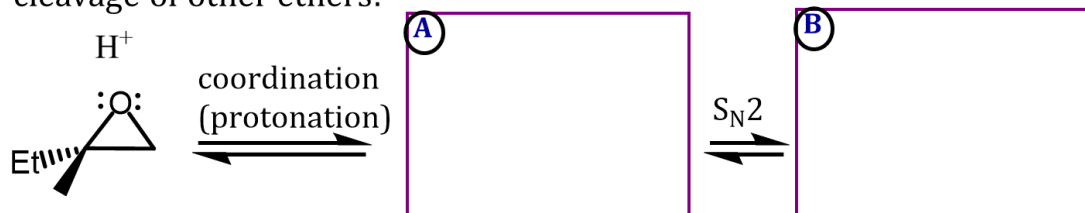


**B** Like other  $S_N2$  reactions on neutral substrates, the nucleophile preferentially attacks:

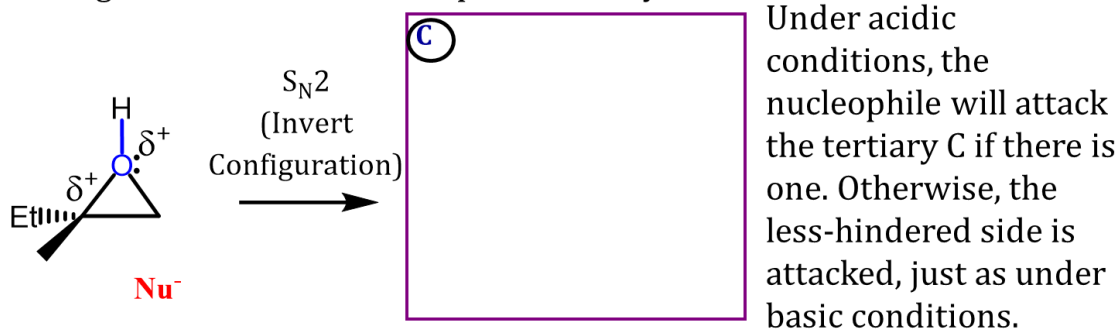
Note that after ring-opening, the oxygen:

Notes

Under acidic conditions, the epoxide oxygen is protonated just as in acid cleavage of other ethers:



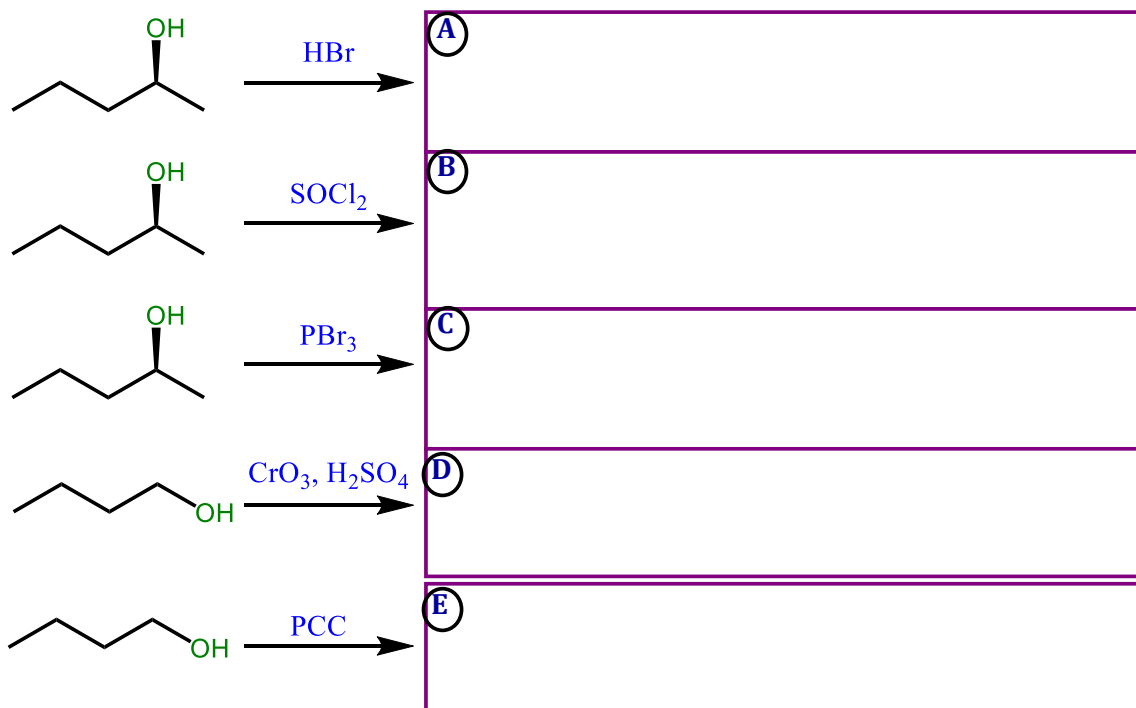
The less substituted side is attacked unless there is a tertiary site. A tertiary C next to an O with formal charge of +1 has a lot of positive charge, and will be attacked preferentially:



Notes

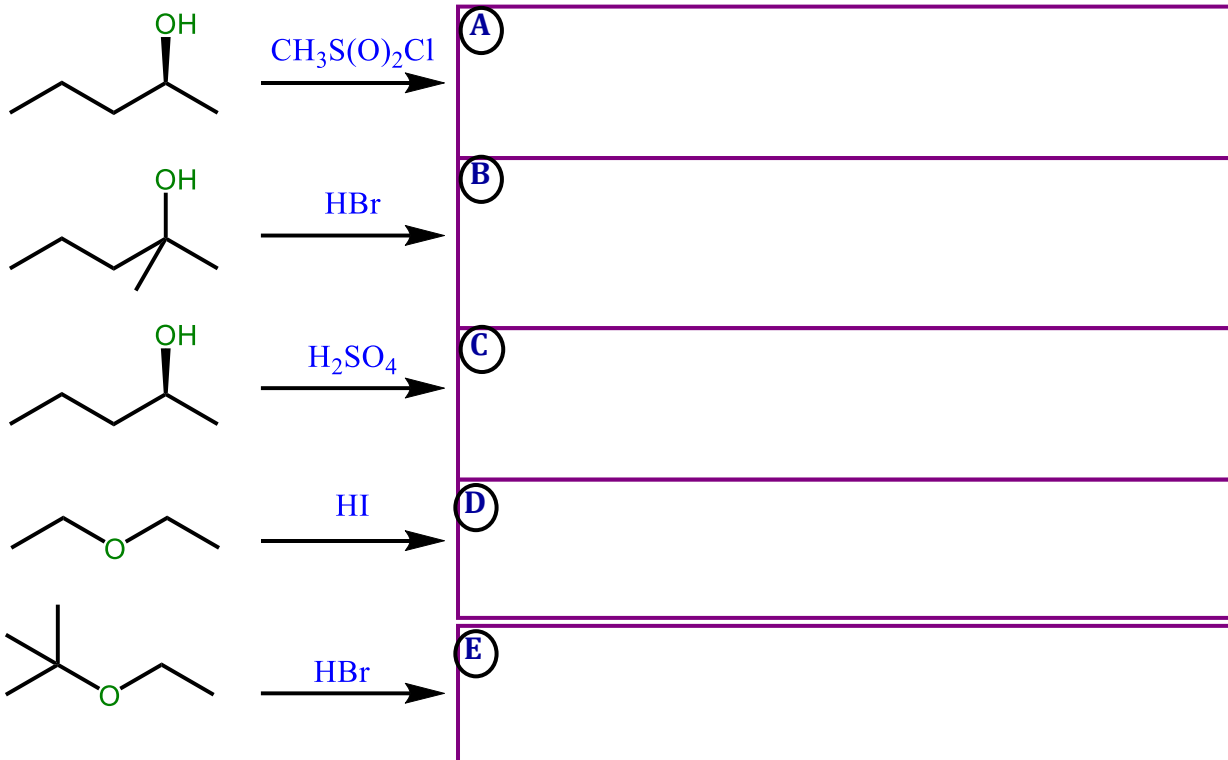
Lecture Topics II.11-15: Recap of Alcohol and Ether Reactivity  
Substitution, Elimination and Oxidation

**Example.** Predict the major product of each reaction, showing stereochemistry where applicable.



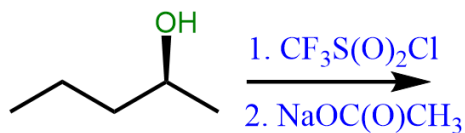
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**Example.** Predict the major product of each reaction, showing stereochemistry where applicable.

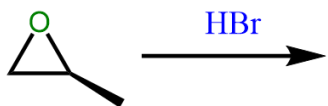


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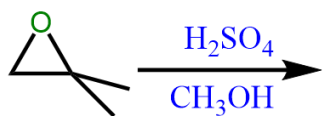
**Example.** Predict the major product of each reaction, showing stereochemistry where applicable.



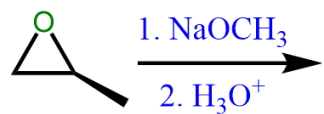
(A)



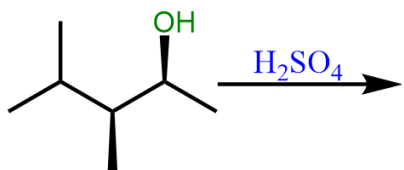
(B)



(C)



(D)



(E)

Notes