

Mnemonic for 5 common –ate anions!

Nick the Camel ate a Clam Supper in Phoenix

1. The underlined letter represents the **symbol** of the 1st element in the –ate ion
2. The number of consonants represent the number of **oxygen** atoms present in the –ate ion
3. The number of vowels represent the number (magnitude) of the **charge of the ion (negative!)**

For example

1. Underlined letter = N = **Nitrate ion**
2. Number of consonants = 3
∴ **3 oxygen atoms** in the nitrate ion
3. Number of vowels = 1
∴ the nitrate ion has a **1- charge**
∴ **Nitrate ion = NO₃⁻**

N = Nitrate ion

C = Carbonate ion

Cl = Chlorate ion

S = Sulfate ion

P = Phosphate ion