

## characteristic group

*in organic nomenclature*

A single heteroatom, for example,  $-\text{Cl}$  and  $=\text{O}$ ; a heteroatom bearing one or more hydrogen atoms or other heteroatoms, for example,  $-\text{NH}_2$ ,  $-\text{OH}$ ,  $-\text{SO}_3\text{H}$ ,  $-\text{PO}_3\text{H}_2$  and  $\text{IO}_2$  ; or a heteroatomic group attached to or containing a single carbon atom, for example,  $-\text{CHO}$ ,  $-\text{C}\equiv\text{N}$ ,  $-\text{COOH}$  and  $-\text{NCO}$  , attached to a parent hydride.

**Source:**

Blue Book (Guide), p. 13