

Chemguide – questions

NITRILES: HYDROLYSIS

This is very short. There is little to understand on this page – just a couple of facts to remember.

1. a) Nitriles undergo hydrolysis if you heat them under reflux with either a dilute acid or sodium hydroxide solution. Write the equations for the reactions between
 - (i) ethanenitrile and dilute hydrochloric acid,
 - (ii) ethanenitrile and sodium hydroxide solution.
- b) In the second case above, how would you end up with a solution containing ethanoic acid?