**Mnemonic Help for Poly-atomic Ions**

The word in the mnemonic helps you to know number of oxygen atoms by looking at the number of consonants in the word. The number of vowels in the mnemonic word tells you the charge for the ion. Ignore the words in parentheses other than to help you remember the phrase.

Nick (the) Baby Camel (ate a) Creepy Clam (for) Supper (in) Phoenix

*For example: Nick ----* N *for Nitrogen; three (3) consonants for the subscript on Oxygen*, *--- and one (1) vowel for the charge -1;* NO3

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| **Mnemonic**  **Word** | **Polyatomic**  **Ion** | **Nomenclature**  **-ate** | **Acid** | **Acid ( – ic)** | **One less Oxygen**  **---ite** | **Acid** | **acid ( -ous)** |
| Nick | NO3-1 | nitrate | HNO3 | Nitric acid | Nitrite | HNO2 | Nitrous |
| Baby | BrO3-1 | bromate | HBrO3 | Bromic acid | bromite | HBrO2 | Bromous |
| Camel | CO3-2 | carbonate | H2CO3 | Carbonic acid | carbonite | H2CO2 | Carbonous |
| Creepy | CrO4-2 | chromate | H2CrO4 | Chromic acid | chromite | H2CrO3 | Chromous |
| Clam | ClO3-1 | chlorate | HClO3 | Chloric acid | chlorite | HClO2 | Chlorous |
| Supper | SO4-2 | sulfate | H2SO4 | Sulfuric acid | sulfite | H2SO3 | Sulfurous |
| Phoenix | PO4-3 | phosphate | H3PO4 | Phosphoric acid | phosphite | H3PO3 | Phosphorous |