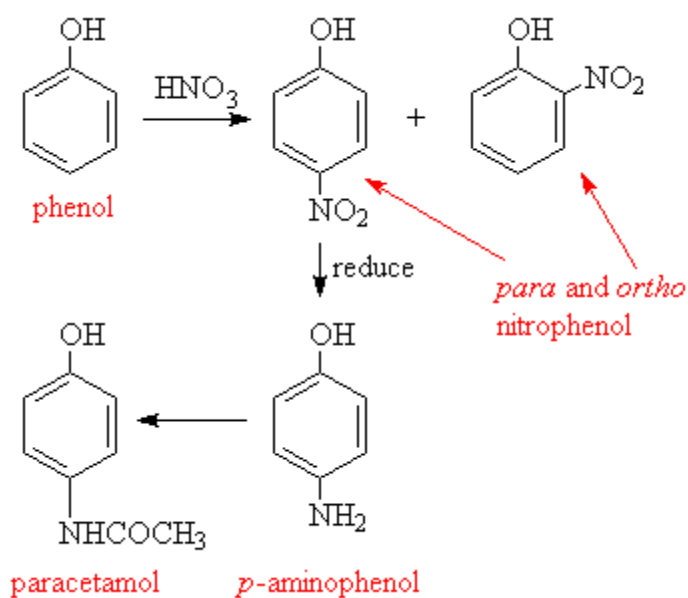


**Paracetamol** is one of the most common drugs used in the world, and is manufactured in huge quantities. The starting material for the commercial manufacture of paracetamol is **phenol**, which is nitrated to give a mixture of the *ortho* and *para*-nitrotoluene. The *o*-isomer is removed by steam distillation, and the *p*-nitro group reduced to a *p*-amino group. This is then acetylated to give paracetamol.

### Preparation



Uses: Paracetamol (**acetaminophen**) is a **pain reliever** and a **fever reducer**. The exact mechanism of action of is not known.

Paracetamol is used to treat many conditions such as **headache**, muscle aches, arthritis, backache, toothaches, colds, and **fevers**. It relieves pain in mild arthritis but has no effect on the underlying inflammation and swelling of the joint.