

### Question

What is the name of the universal solvent?

### Answer

If a solvent that dissolves every other substance is meant under the "universal solvent", its name is **Alkahest**. It is an alchemy term (introduced by Paracelsus) and of course there is no such substance. No solvent dissolves everything.

If a substance that dissolves most chemicals is meant under the "universal solvent", than **water** may be called the universal solvent because more substances dissolve in water than in any other chemical.

If metals dissolving are meant, than **aqua regia** may be mentioned as a universal solvent.

Generally, "like dissolves like." This means polar solvents dissolve polar molecules. Nonpolar solvents dissolve nonpolar molecules.