Mnemonic for 5 common –ate anions!

Nick the Camel ate a Clam Supper in Phoenix

1. The **underlined letter** represents the symbol of the 1\textsuperscript{st} element in the –ate ion

2. The **number of consonants** represent the number of oxygen atoms present in the –ate ion

3. The **number of vowels** represent the number (magnitude) of the charge of the ion (negative!)

For example

1. **Underlined letter** = N = Nitrate ion
2. **Number of consonants** = 3
   \[ \therefore 3 \text{ oxygen atoms} \text{ in the nitrate ion} \]
3. **Number of vowels** = 1
   \[ \therefore \text{the nitrate ion has a } 1\text{- charge} \]
   \[ \therefore \text{Nitrate ion} = \text{NO}_3^- \]

N = Nitrate ion
C = Carbonate ion
Cl = Chlorate ion
S = Sulfate ion
P = Phosphate ion