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esters

Compounds formally derived from an oxoacid $R_kE(=O)_l(OH)_m$, ($l \neq 0$) and an alcohol, phenol, heteroarenol, or enol by linking with formal loss of water from an acidic hydroxy group of the former and a hydroxy group of the latter. By extension acyl derivatives of alcohols, etc. Acyl derivatives of chalcogen analogues of alcohols (thiols, selenols, tellurols) etc. are included. E.g. R'C(=O)(OR) , R'C(=S)(OR) , R'C(=O)(SR) , $R'S(=O)_2(OR)$, $(HO)_2P(=O)(OR)$, $(R'S)_2C(=O)$, ROCN (but not R–NCO) ($R \neq H$).
Note:
O-Alkyl derivatives of other acidic compounds [see amides (1)] may be named as esters but do not belong to the class esters proper. E.g. $(Ph)_2POCH_3$ methyl diphenylphosphinite.
See also: acylals, ortho esters, depsides, depsipeptides, glycerides, lactides, lactones, macrolides

Source:
PAC, 1995, *67*, 1307 *(Glossary of class names of organic compounds and reactivity intermediates based on structure (IUPAC Recommendations 1995))* on page 1334

