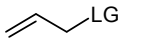
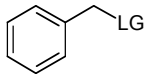
	S_N2	S_N1	E2	E1
Substrate	Methyl, 1°, 2°, Allylic  Benzylic 	3°, some 2°, allylic, benzylic	Any substrate (except methyl) with leaving group	3°, some 2°, allylic, benzylic
Nucleophile or base	Good nucleophile required (especially large polarizable group without steric hindrance)	Any nucleophile (often solvent)	Strong base OH^-, RO^-, NR_2^- Especially if sterically hindered (to reduce competition with S_N2)	No nucleophile, no base. Need some solvent, preferably non-nucleophilic to prevent S_N1
Leaving group	Need good leaving group (bond broken in RLS)	Need very good leaving group (bond broken in RLS)	Needs a leaving group, but a good one is not necessary Good leaving group gives Zaitsev; poor leaving group gives Hofmann	Needs good leaving group (bond broken in RLS)
Solvent	Faster in aprotic polar solvent	Protic solvents required to stabilize ions (solvent may act as nucleophile)	Solvent has little effect	Protic solvents required to stabilize ions, but solvent may allow S_N1 competition.
Temperature	Faster at elevated temperature	Faster at elevated temperature	Higher temperature favors elimination	Higher temperature favors elimination
Rate	Fast	Slow	Fast	Very slow (generally occurs only if other reactions cannot)
Competes with	E2 if basic nucleophile S_N1 if a secondary substrate, or moderate nucleophile	S_N2 if secondary substrate, E1 if moderate or poor nucleophile	S_N2 if base is nucleophilic	S_N1 if nucleophile is moderate