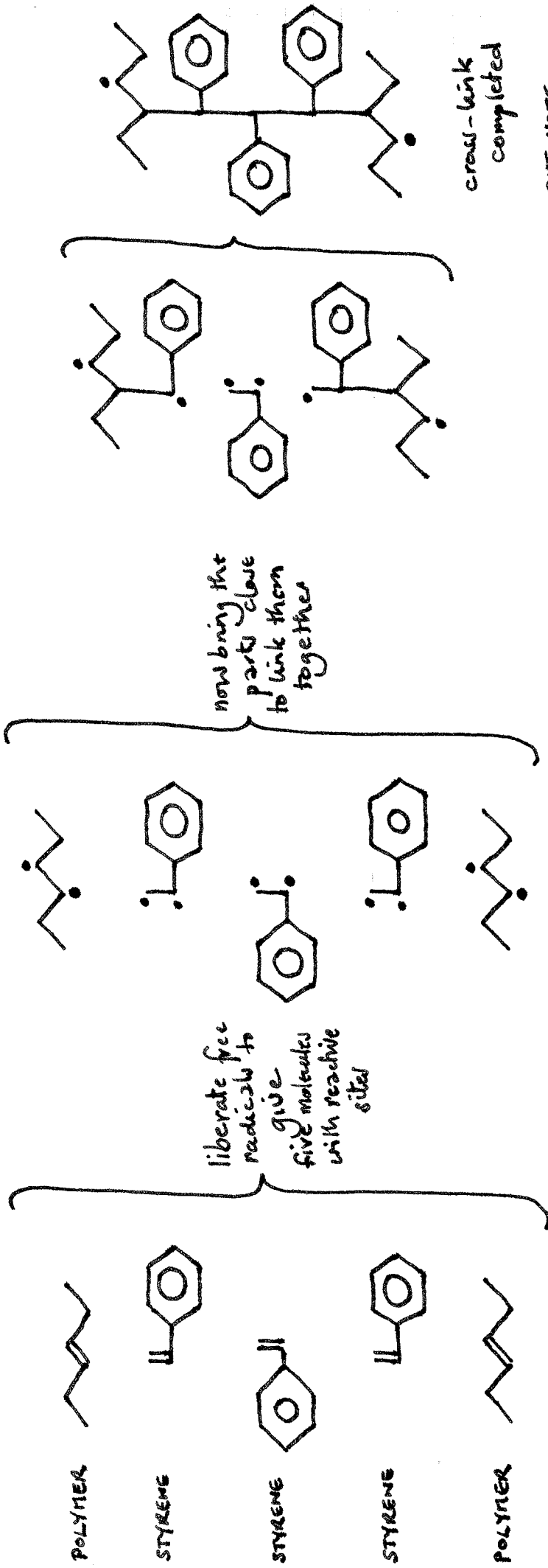


CURING POLYESTER

Unsaturation is the presence of double bonds

- 1) A free radical is half a bond, represented •
- 2) A bond results when two free radicals join —
- 3) When a bond breaks, two free radicals result



BUT NOTE
there are
still TWO
ACTIVE SITES
i.e. remnant
free radicals

If too much styrene is present (e.g. when diluted to reduce viscosity), then the number of styrene molecules in the crosslink increases, and the presence of more "polystyrene" confers the brittle nature inherent in PS polymers.