A solvolysis is an aliphatic nucleophilic substitution reaction in which the solvent functions as the nucleophile.

eg:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{CH}_3\text{Br} & \quad + \quad \text{H}_2\text{O} \quad \xrightarrow{\text{excess}} \quad \text{CH}_3\text{OH}^-_2 \quad + \quad \text{Br}^- \\
\end{align*}
\]

Water is the nucleophile as well as solvent in this reaction.