# Compounds with amine groups

## Classification of amines and amides

Amines are compounds containing a basic nitrogen atom with a lone pair. They are derivatives of ammonia where bonds are formed with one or more organic ‘R’ groups. When the lone pair is also used in co-ordinate bonding with say a H+ ion then the compound formed is called a quaternary ammonium salt. When an amino group is next immediately adjacent to a carbonyl C=O group, the compounds are called amides. Both types of compound can be classified as primary (1°), secondary (2°), tertiary (3°) or quaternary (4°), according to the number of organic R groups on the nitrogen.

1. A diagram of chemical formulas

   Description automatically generatedLook at the following chemicals containing amine and amide groups. Colour code the groups according to their class.

# Properties of amines

Oliver took some ammonia solution (Beaker A) and added some dilute HCl. Before the addition the ammonia had a distinctive ‘fishy’ odour. Following the addition this went away (Beaker B). When dilute NaOH was added to beaker B the fishy odour returned.

A diagram of a beaker with a liquid in it

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1. Using your knowledge of amine chemistry, explain the observations Oliver made.
2. George took some ammonia and added it to water. He added universal indicator to the solution which turned purple. Explain these observations.
3. The table below shows the pKa values for some amines. The smaller the pKa value, the stronger the base. Discuss these values.

A white rectangular box with black text

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# Amine mechanisms

1. Outline the mechanism leading to the formation of X from bromoethane in the presence of an equimolar quantity of ammonia.

(8 marks)

A black arrow pointing to a black line

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1. Explain why this reaction does not stop at the first amine product

(1 mark)

**3.** Suggest a way that the formation of X can be supressed, leading to a high yield of aminoethane

(1 mark)

# A group of chemical formulas Description automatically generatedAmino acids

Above are diagrams of the 20 naturally occurring amino acids. The clues describe 10 of them. Give the letter of the alphabet for the structure being described.

**Alanine** is a major source of energy for muscles. It has a molecular mass of 89.

**Arginine** is an amino acid necessary for wound healing and has an imine in its R group.

**Aspartic acid** is an amino acid that can be transformed into aspartame, an artificial sweetener. It has 2 acid groups in its structure.

**Cysteine** is an amino acid which is abundant in the keratin proteins that make up curly hair through the formation of disufide bridges. It has a thiol in its structure.

**Glutamic acid** is an amino acid which is used to build GABA neurotransmitters. It has the same structure as aspartic acid but with the addition of an extra CH2 in the R side chain.

**Glycine** is the simplest amino acid and forms part of the haemoglobin structure.

**Histidine** is an amino acid that is associated with allergic responses. It has 3 nitrogen atoms in its structure.

**Phenylalanine** plays an important role in the production of collagen and has a benzyl R side chain.

**Proline** is a critical component of cartilage tissue. It is a relatively simple amino acid with no R side chain and its amine group is part of a 5 membered ring.

**Tryptophan** is used by the body to produce the key calming neurotransmitter serotonin. Its R side chain contains a bicyclic aromatic heterocycle (2 rings, joined together and one or more containing an atom other than carbon.

# Amino acids and pH

1. Complete the diagram to show the structure of the amino acid A at the pHs indicated.

(3 marks)

A diagram of a chemical structure

Description automatically generated

1. What is the general name for amino acids in the form shown in B?

(1 mark)

1. State and explain 2 properties of amino acids that occur as a result of the formation of structure B.

(6 marks)

# Amine preparation

Complete the diagrams with structures, names and reagents where appropriate.

A diagram of a chemical reaction

Description automatically generated

# Compounds with amine groups – Answers

## Classification of amines and amides

A diagram of chemical formulas

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# Properties of amines

* Ammonia is volatile
* Addition to HCl causes the formation of ammonium chloride/quaternary ammonium salt
* Ammonium chloride/quaternary ammonium salts are non-volatile
* Addition of NaOH restores the basic conditions and volatile NH3 is reformed
* NH3 reacts with water molecules to form NH4+ and OH- (or equation for the formation of both)
* OH- causes the universal indictor to change colour



* Methylamine is a stronger base than ammonia because the inductive effect of the alkyl/methyl group increases the availability of the lone pair.

Phenylamine is weaker as the lone pair is partially delocalised into the benzene ring.

## Amine mechanisms

A diagram of a chemical reaction

Description automatically generated

**2**. Substituted amines are more nucleophilic than ammonia (due to the inductive effect)

(1 mark)

**3.** Use an excess of ammonia

# Amino acids

**Alanine** A

**Arginine** H

**Aspartic acid** D

**Cysteine** E

**Glutamic acid** F

**Glycine** B

**Histidine** I

**Phenylalanine** N

**Proline** O

**Tryptophan** R

This starter is a good opportunity to discuss some chemistry beyond the curriculum.

## Properties of amino acids

**1** (1 mark for each correct structure)

A diagram of a chemical reaction

Description automatically generated

**2.** Zwitterion

(1 mark)

**3.** High melting point/solid at room temperature (1) because strong (1) electrostatic attraction (1) between oppositely charged ions/ionic regions (1).

Soluble in water (1) because the charged regions are attracted to the δ+ and δ– regions of water (or water is a polar molecule) (1)

# Preparation of amines

A diagram of a chemical reaction

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