

14.11: Amines - Structures and Names

Learning Objectives

- Identify the general structure for an amine.
- Identify the functional group for amines.
- Determine the structural feature that classifies amines as primary, secondary, or tertiary.
- Use nomenclature systems to name amines.

Amines are classified according to the number of carbon atoms bonded directly to the nitrogen atom. A primary (1°) amine has one alkyl (or aryl) group on the nitrogen atom, a secondary (2°) amine has two, and a tertiary (3°) amine has three (Figure 14.11.1).

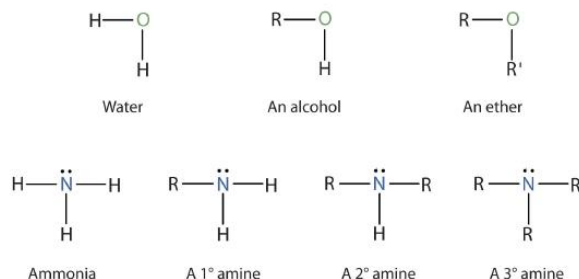
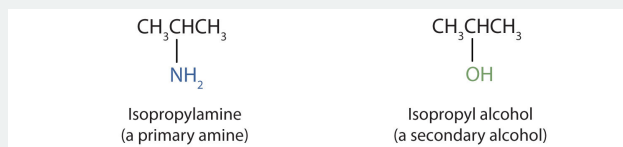


Figure 14.11.1: The Structure of Amines Compared to Water, an Alcohol, and an Ether

To classify alcohols, we look at the number of carbon atoms bonded to the *carbon atom* bearing the OH group, not the oxygen atom itself. Thus, although isopropylamine looks similar to isopropyl alcohol, the former is a *primary* amine, while the latter is a *secondary* alcohol.

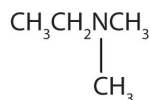


The common names for simple aliphatic amines consist of an alphabetic list of alkyl groups attached to the nitrogen atom, followed by the suffix *-amine*. (Systematic names are often used by some chemists.) The amino group (NH_2) is named as a substituent in more complicated amines, such as those that incorporate other functional groups or in which the alkyl groups cannot be simply named.

✓ Example 14.11.1

Name and classify each compound.

a. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$



b.

c. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_3$

d. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHCH}_3$

Solution

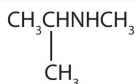
- There is only one alkyl group attached to the nitrogen atom, so the amine is primary. A group of three carbon atoms (a propyl group) is attached to the NH_2 group through an end carbon atom, so the name is propylamine.
- There are two methyl groups and one ethyl group on the nitrogen atom. The compound is ethyldimethylamine, a tertiary amine.
- There are two ethyl groups attached to the nitrogen atom; the amine is secondary, so the compound is diethylamine.

d. The nitrogen atom has a methyl group and a propyl group, so the compound is methylpropylamine, a secondary amine.

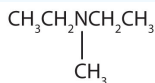
? Exercise 14.11.1

Name and classify each compound.

a.



b.



c. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_2$

d. $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$

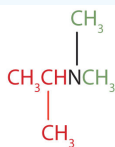
✓ Example 14.11.2

Draw the structure for each compound and classify.

- isopropyldimethylamine
- dipropylamine

Solution

a. The name indicates that there are an isopropyl group (in red) and two methyl groups (in green) attached to the nitrogen atom; the amine is tertiary.



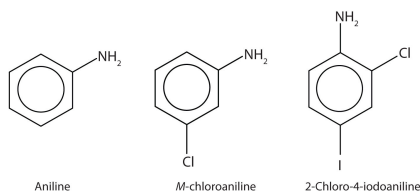
b. The name indicates that there are two propyl groups attached to the nitrogen atom; the amine is secondary. (The third bond on the nitrogen atom goes to a hydrogen atom.) $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{NHCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_3$

? Exercise 14.11.2

Draw the structure for each compound and classify.

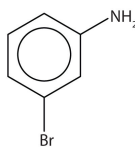
- ethylisopropylamine
- diethylpropylamine

The primary amine in which the nitrogen atom is attached directly to a benzene ring has a special name—**aniline**. Aryl amines are named as derivatives of aniline.



✓ Example 14.11.3

Name this compound.

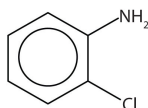


Solution

The benzene ring with an amino (NH_2) group is aniline. The compound is named as a derivative of aniline: 3-bromoaniline or *m*-bromoaniline.

? Exercise 14.11.3

Name this compound.

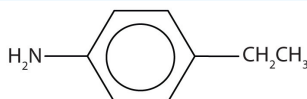


✓ Example 14.11.4

Draw the structure for *p*-ethylaniline and classify.

Solution

The compound is a derivative of aniline. It is a primary amine having an ethyl group located *para* to the amino (NH_2) group.



? Exercise 14.11.4

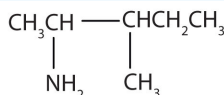
Draw the structure for *p*-isopropylaniline and classify.

✓ Example 14.11.5

Draw the structure for 2-amino-3-methylpentane.

Solution

Always start with the parent compound: draw the pentane chain. Then attach a methyl group at the third carbon atom and an amino group at the second carbon atom.



? Exercise 14.11.5

Draw the structure for 2-amino-3-ethyl-1-chloroheptane.

Ammonium (NH_4^+) ions, in which one or more hydrogen atoms are replaced with alkyl groups, are named in a manner analogous to that used for simple amines. The alkyl groups are named as substituents, and the parent species is regarded as the NH_4^+ ion. For example, CH_3NH_3^+ is the methylammonium ion. The ion formed from aniline ($\text{C}_6\text{H}_5\text{NH}_3^+$) is called the anilinium ion.

✓ Example 14.11.6

Name each ion.

- CH_3NH_3^+
- $(\text{CH}_3)_2\text{NH}_2^+$
- $(\text{CH}_3)_3\text{NH}^+$
- $(\text{CH}_3)_4\text{N}^+$

Solution

The ions have one, two, three, and four methyl (CH_3) groups attached to a nitrogen atom. Their names are as follows:

- methylammonium ion
- dimethylammonium ion
- trimethylammonium ion
- tetramethylammonium ion

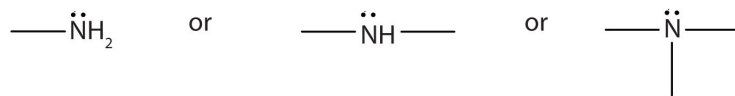
? Exercise 14.11.6

Name each ion.

- $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{NH}_3^+$
- $(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)_3\text{NH}^+$
- $(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_2\text{NH}_2^+$
- $(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2)_4\text{N}^+$

Summary

An amine is a derivative of ammonia in which one, two, or all three hydrogen atoms are replaced by hydrocarbon groups. The amine functional group is as follows:



Amines are classified as primary, secondary, or tertiary by the number of hydrocarbon groups attached to the nitrogen atom. Amines are named by naming the alkyl groups attached to the nitrogen atom, followed by the suffix *-amine*.

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