Naming Amines

Amines are near relatives of ammonia, NH_3 where hydrogen atoms in the ammonia have been replaced by a hydrocarbon group.

Amines can be named in two ways.

First, they can be viewed as having an amino group, an $-NH_2$ group, attached to an alkane. This approach is used for the IUPAC names.

Second, they can be seen as having an alkyl group attached to the nitrogen in the amine. This approach is used in creating common names.

IUPAC method

Rule 1:

The longest continuous chain containing the amino group is considered to be the parent compound

Rule 2:

The prefix "amino" is added to the parent compound

Rule 3:

A number is included before the "amino" to indicate the position of the NH_2 group. No number is included for molecules with only 1 or 2 carbon atoms.

aminomethane

1-aminopropane

CH3-CH2-CH2-NH2

CH₃-NH₂

NH₂ I CH₃-CH-CH₃

2-aminopropane

Common name method

Rule 1: Count the carbon atoms on the alkyl chain Rule 2: Add the alkyl prefix to 'amine'

methylamine

propylamine

CH₃-NH₂

CH₃-CH₂-CH₂-NH₂

Activity: Name the amines below:







Draw the following amines

3-aminohexane

2-methyl, 3aminopentane

2,3-dimethyl, 3-aminopentane

2,4 diaminobutane