

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Blk: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ACID BASES UNIT  
Lesson #5  
CONJUGATE ACIDS AND BASES

A conjugate ACID-BASE PAIR is a pair of chemical species that differ by only one proton  
CONJUGATE ACID- has an extra proton

CONJUGATE BASE- has one less proton

**Example 1.** In the equilibrium reaction  $\text{NH}_4^+ + \text{H}_2\text{O} \rightleftharpoons \text{NH}_3 + \text{H}_3\text{O}^+$  there are  
**TWO CONJUGATE PAIRS**

CONJUGATE PAIR

CONJUGATE ACID

CONJUGATE BASE

a.  $\text{NH}_4^+ / \text{NH}_3$

$\text{NH}_4^+$

$\text{NH}_3$

b.  $\text{H}_2\text{O} / \text{H}_3\text{O}^+$

$\text{H}_3\text{O}^+$

$\text{H}_2\text{O}$

**Example 2.** Given the following conjugate pairs, identify the conjugate acid and the conjugate base:

$\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^{1-}$ ,  $\text{HPO}_4^{2-}$

ACID  
 $\text{H}_2\text{PO}_4^{1-}$

$\text{S}^{2-}$ ,  $\text{HS}^-$

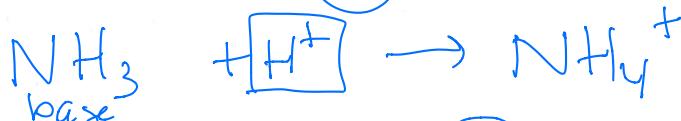
BASE  
 $\text{HS}^-$

$\text{HCO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$

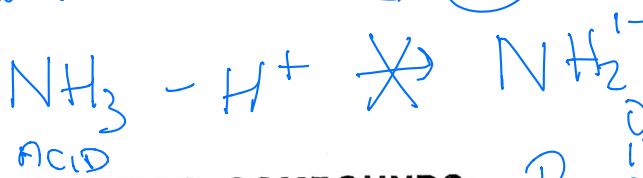
ACID  
 $\text{HCO}_3^-$

**Example 3.**

a. What is the conjugate ACID of  $\text{NH}_3$ ? base  $\rightarrow \text{NH}_4^+$



\* b. What would be the conjugate BASE of  $\text{NH}_3$ ?



**A NOTE on ORGANIC COMPOUNDS:**  $\text{R}-\underset{\text{||}}{\text{C}}-\text{O}-\text{H}$  &

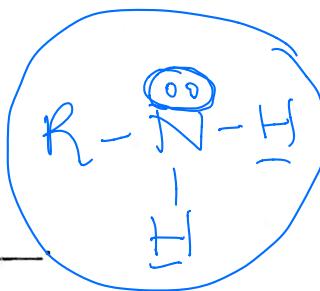
ORGANIC ACIDS, substances containing a COOH group:

The H at the end of the functional group is the donatable proton

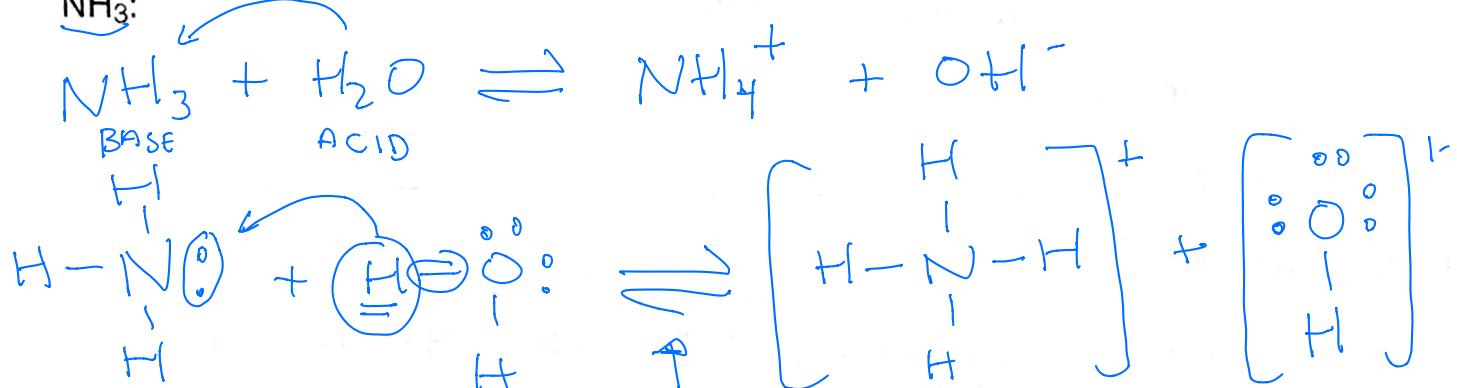
ORGANIC BASES, substances containing either an  $\text{NH}_2$  group or an NH group:

It is the unpaired set of electrons

that receives the proton



Using LEWIS DOT STRUCTURES we can visualize the reaction between water and  $\text{NH}_3$ :

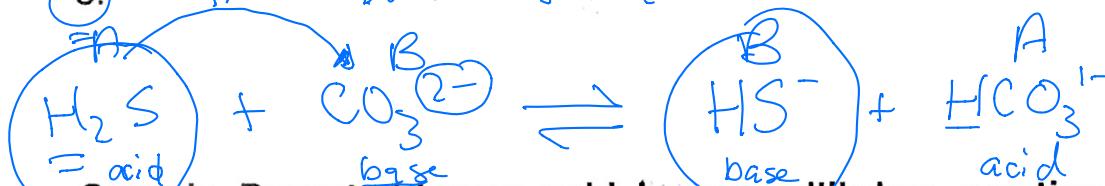


**Example 4.** Write the acid-base equilibrium which occurs when  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  and  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  are mixed in solution:

1. How will each species react?

2.  $\text{H}_2\text{S}$  vs  $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$   $\therefore \text{H}_2\text{S}$  is the acid  
 $\text{CO}_3^{2-}$  is the base

3. what forms



**Generic Bronsted-Lowry acid base equilibrium reaction looks like:**

Conjugate ACID + Conjugate Base  $\longleftrightarrow$  Conjugate BASE + Conjugate ACID  
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