

Bronsted Concept of Acids and Bases

Table 17.2 Conjugate Acid-Base Pairs*

Name	Acid 1	Base 2		Base 1	Acid 2
Hydrochloric acid	HCl	+ H ₂ O	→	Cl ⁻	+ H ₃ O ⁺
Nitric acid	HNO ₃	+ H ₂ O	→	NO ₃ ⁻	+ H ₃ O ⁺
Hydrogen carbonate	HCO ₃ ⁻	+ H ₂ O	⇌	CO ₃ ²⁻	+ H ₃ O ⁺
Acetic acid	CH ₃ CO ₂ H	+ H ₂ O	⇌	CH ₃ CO ₂ ⁻	+ H ₃ O ⁺
Hydrocyanic acid	HCN	+ H ₂ O	⇌	CN ⁻	+ H ₃ O ⁺
Hydrogen sulfide	H ₂ S	+ H ₂ O	⇌	HS ⁻	+ H ₃ O ⁺
Ammonia	H ₂ O	+ NH ₃	⇌	OH ⁻	+ NH ₄ ⁺
Carbonate ion	H ₂ O	+ CO ₃ ²⁻	⇌	OH ⁻	+ HCO ₃ ⁻
Water	H ₂ O	+ H ₂ O	⇌	OH ⁻	+ H ₃ O ⁺

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NH₄⁺ and NH₃ - a conjugate acid-base pair



Base

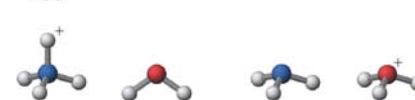


Weak base

$$K_b = 1.8 \times 10^{-5}$$



Acid



Weak acid

$$K_a = 5.6 \times 10^{-10}$$

For any conjugate acid/base pair

(such as NH₃/NH₄⁺):

$$K_w = K_a K_b = 5.6 \cdot 10^{-10} \cdot 1.8 \cdot 10^{-5} = 1.0 \cdot 10^{-14}$$

$$\text{Therefore: } K_a = K_w / K_b \text{ and } K_b = K_w / K_a$$

$$\log K_w = \log K_a + \log K_b \rightarrow pK_w = pK_a + pK_b$$

$$9.25 + 4.75 = 14$$

PRS