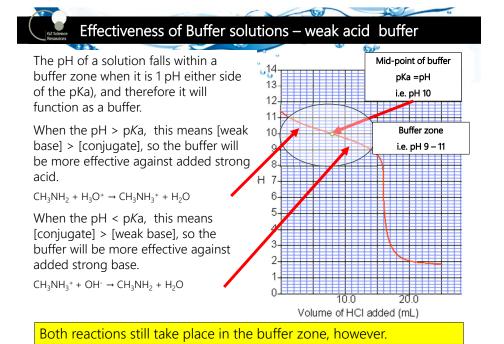


## Effectiveness of Buffer solutions – weak base buffer The pH of a solution falls within a buffer zone when it is 1 pH either side of the pKa), and therefore it will function as a buffer. Mid-point of buffer When the pH < pKa, this means [weak acid] > [conjugate], so the buffer will pKa =pH be more effective against added strong i.e. pH 5.1 base. $COOH_{(aq)} + OH^{-}_{(aq)} \Leftrightarrow COO^{-}_{(aq)} + H_2O_{(l)}$ When the pH > pKa, this means [conjugate] > [weak acid], so the buffer will be more effective against added Buffer zone strong acid. i.e. pH 4.1 - 6.1 $COO^{-}_{(aq)} + H_3O^{+}_{(aq)} \Leftrightarrow COOH_{(aq)} + H_2O_{(b)}$ Volume of NaOH added (mL) Both reactions still take place in the buffer zone, however.



## Buffer calculations for monoprotic acids

## Calculate pH of buffer given: k<sub>a</sub> or Pk<sub>a</sub> + conc of [HA] and [A-]

1. Write dissociation equation, and K expression of weak acid (weak acid conjugate)

$$HA + H2O$$

$$\leftrightharpoons$$

[A-] and [HA] swapped as + log

$$K_a = [H_3O^+][A^-]$$
[HA]

to 
$$[H_3O^+] = \underline{K_a \times [HA]}$$

2. Calculate pH – may need to calculate 
$$c = n/v + n = m/M$$
 first

$$pH = pK_a - log (\underline{A})$$
 or  $pH = pK_a + log (\underline{A})$   $[A]$ 

Note: in a buffer solution [H<sub>3</sub>O<sup>+</sup>] does not equal [A-] since the A- has not been produced by the dissociation of the acid HA alone

Reminder that pH = -log[H<sub>3</sub>O+] So applied to both sides

[HA]

## Summary of steps – After amount base/acid added – Q9 Concentration and volume given for both acid and base Weak base vs Strong Acid Weak acid vs Strong Base 1. Calculate n weak base Calculate n weak acid n(weak base (start)) = cvn(weak acid (start)) = cv 2. Calculate n strong acid 2. Calculate n strong base $n(strong\ acid\ (start)) = cv$ n(strong base (start)) = cv After acid added After base added 3. n(weak base) = n(weak base(start)) - n(acid)3. $n(weak\ acid) = n(weak\ acid\ (start)) - n(base)$ 4. c(weak base) = n(weak base) / total volume 4. c(weak acid) = n(weak acid) / total volume NOTE: n(conj. acid) = n(strong acid) NOTE: n(conj. base) = n(strong base) 3. c(conj. acid) = n(conj. acid) / total volume 3. c(conj. base) = n(conj. Base) / total volume $pH = pK_a + log$ [weak base] $pH = pK_a + log$ [conj. base] [conj. acid] [weak acid]

