

## Give It Some Thought 17.2 Custom

### Part A

Which of these conjugate acid-base pairs will *not* function as a buffer?

ANSWER:

- and
- and
- and

## ± pH of a Buffer Solution

Solutions that contain a weak acid,  $\text{HA}$ , and its conjugate base,  $\text{A}^-$ , are called *buffer solutions* because they resist drastic changes in pH. When a solution contains a weak acid and its conjugate base or a weak base and its conjugate acid, it will be a buffer solution. For buffers containing a weak acid, the principal reaction is

Unbuffered, a weak acid would ionize and the net reaction would proceed forward to reach equilibrium. However, when a significant amount of conjugate base is already present, the extent of the net reaction forward is diminished. Thus, equilibrium concentrations of  $\text{HA}$  and  $\text{A}^-$  are approximately equal to their initial concentrations.

### Visualizing buffers

You can visualize a buffer solution containing approximately equal concentrations of  $\text{HA}$  and  $\text{A}^-$  in action using the following equation, where  $K_a$  is the equilibrium constant:

When the concentrations of  $\text{HA}$  and  $\text{A}^-$  are relatively large, the addition of a small amount of acid or base changes their concentration negligibly. The result is that the ratio  $\frac{[\text{A}^-]}{[\text{HA}]}$  maintains a value approximately equal to 1, and the pH is approximately equal to the value under buffer conditions.

### Part A

Calculate the pH of the solution made by adding 0.50 mol of  $\text{HA}$  and 0.30 mol of  $\text{A}^-$  to 1.00 L of water. The value of  $K_a$  for  $\text{HA}$  is  $1.0 \times 10^{-4}$ .

Express your answer numerically using two decimal places.

You did not open hints for this part.

ANSWER:

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## Problem 17.21 Custom

### Part A

Calculate the pH of a buffer that is 0.12 M in lactic acid and 0.11 M in sodium lactate.

Express your answer using two decimal places.

ANSWER:

## Give It Some Thought 17.4

The  $K_a$  values for nitrous acid and hypochlorous acid are  $4.5 \times 10^{-4}$  and  $3.5 \times 10^{-8}$ , respectively.

### Part A

Which one would be more suitable for use in a solution buffered at pH = 7.0?

ANSWER:

Part B Complete previous part(s)

## $\pm$ pH Changes in Buffers

When a solution contains a weak acid and its conjugate base or a weak base and its conjugate acid, it will be a buffer solution. Buffers resist change in pH following the addition of acid or base. A buffer solution prepared from a weak acid ( $\text{HA}$ ) and its conjugate base ( $\text{A}^-$ ) is represented as

The buffer will follow Le Châtelier's principle. If acid is added, the reaction shifts to consume the added  $\text{H}^+$ , forming more  $\text{HA}$ . When base is added, the base will react with  $\text{HA}$ , reducing its concentration. The reaction then shifts to replace  $\text{HA}$  through the dissociation of  $\text{A}^-$  into  $\text{HA}$  and  $\text{OH}^-$ . In both instances,  $\text{pH}$  tends to remain constant.

The pH of a buffer is calculated by using the Henderson-Hasselbalch equation:

### Part A

What is the pH of a buffer prepared by adding 0.809 g of the weak acid to 0.608 g of its conjugate base in 2.00 L of solution? The dissociation constant of the weak acid is  $1.5 \times 10^{-5}$ .

Express the pH numerically to three decimal places.

You did not open hints for this part.

ANSWER:

### Part B

What is the after 0.150 of is added to the buffer from Part A? Assume no volume change on the addition of the acid.

**Express the pH numerically to three decimal places.**

You did not open hints for this part.

ANSWER:

### Part C

What is the after 0.195 of is added to the buffer from Part A? Assume no volume change on the addition of the base.

**Express the pH numerically to three decimal places.**

You did not open hints for this part.

ANSWER:

## Problem 17.28 with feedback

A buffer contains 0.10 of propionic acid () and 0.19 of sodium propionate () in 1.20 .

You may want to reference (Page) Section 17.2 while completing this problem.

### Part A

What is the of this buffer?

**Express the pH to two decimal places.**

ANSWER:

### Part B