Aldehydes and ketones can be converted into 1°, 2° and 3° amines using reductive amination. The reaction takes place in two parts. The first step is the nucleophilic addition of the carbonyl group to form an imine. The second step is the reduction of the imine to an amine using an reducing agent. A reducing agent commonly used for this reaction is sodium cyanoborohydride (NaBH₃CN).

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\begin{align*}
\text{R' = H or Alkyl} & & \text{Imine} \\
\text{R' = H or Alkyl} & & 1° \text{Amine} \\
\text{R' = H or Alkyl} & & 2° \text{Amine} \\
\text{R' = H or Alkyl} & & 3° \text{Amine}
\end{align*}
\]