Hofmann rearrangement, also known as Hofmann degradation and not to be confused with Hofmann elimination, is the reaction of a primary amide with a halogen (chlorine or bromine) in strongly basic (sodium or potassium hydroxide) aqueous medium, which converts the amide to a primary amine. eg:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Et} & \text{C}=\text{O} \quad \text{Br}_2, \text{NaOH} \\
\text{Et} & \text{NH}_2 \quad \text{H}_2\text{O} \\
\text{Et} & \text{NH}_2 + \text{CO}_2
\end{align*}
\]

**Mechanism**

see also nitrene

**Contributors**

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