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:

\[
\text{Et-} \overset{\text{Br}_2, \text{NaOH}}{\longrightarrow} \text{Et-} \overset{\text{H}_2\text{O}}{\longrightarrow} \text{Et-} \overset{\text{NH}_2}{\longrightarrow} + \text{CO}_2
\]

**Mechanism**

see also [nitrene](#)

**Contributors**

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