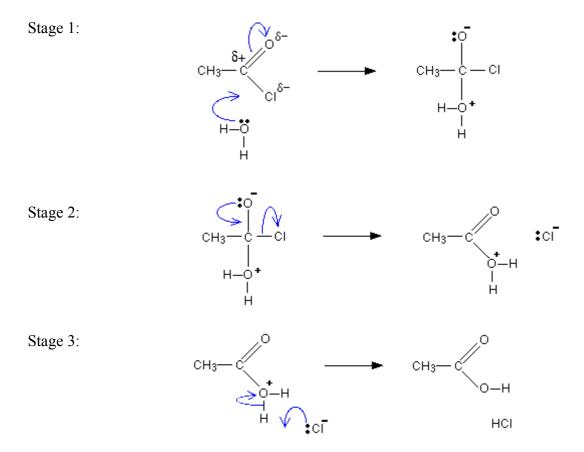
Chemguide - questions

ADDITION / ELIMINATION REACTIONS

1. Ethanoyl chloride, CH₃COCl, a typical acyl chloride, reacts instantly with water to produce ethanoic acid and fumes of hydrogen chloride. The mechanism for the reaction is as follows:



a) In stage 1, the water is acting as a nucleophile. What is a nucleophile, and why is water a nucleophile?

b) Describe and explain what is happening at each stage of this mechanism.

c) Ethanol has the formula CH₃CH₂OH. Write the equation for the reaction between ethanoyl chloride and ethanol, and name the organic product.

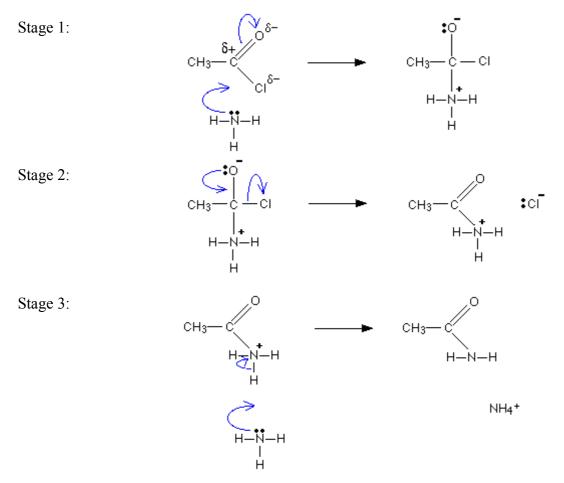
d) Explain why you might expect ethanol to behave as a nucleophile in a similar way to water.

e) Write the full mechanism for the reaction between ethanoyl chloride and ethanol.

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2. If you add drops of ethanoyl chloride to a concentrated solution of ammonia in the cold, there is a violent reaction, and you get a white solid mixture of ethanamide and ammonium chloride.

The mechanism for the reaction is



a) Write the overall equation for the reaction.

b) Describe and explain what is happening at each stage of the mechanism.

c) Stage 3 of the mechanism could happen differently with the hydrogen ion being removed by a chloride ion to produce HCl – followed by the formation of ammonium chloride from the HCl and excess ammonia in the mixture. Draw the mechanism for stage 3 involving a chloride ion. Include the equation for the final formation of ammonium chloride.

d) Write the mechanism for the reaction between ethanoyl chloride and ethylamine, CH₃CH₂NH₂, to form a mixture of N-ethylethanamide and ethylammonium chloride. (Note: Don't be scared by the names! If you work through the mechanism, you will automatically get the right products formed.)