

Examine the Alkyl Halide (or electrophile)



Methyl

Primary

Secondary

Tertiary

strong nuc

Can undergo S_N1 , S_N2 (tertiary not very well, if at all for S_N2), $E1$, and $E2$

Primarily (if not ALL) will go via S_N2
Not S_N1 / $E1$ b/c need stable CC^+ formed.

Examine the Nucleophile

STRONG Nucleophile, i.e. a strong base (HO^- , MeO^- , etc)

S_N2 or $E2$

Favored at a lower temperature

Inversion of Stereochemistry if a chiral center.

Favored with use of a bulkier base and **HIGH** temperature

Non-Cyclic

Examine β - hydrogens. If more than one, possible isomers exist. If **ONLY** one, then one conformation exists (E or Z). Draw a **NEWMAN PROJECTION!**

Cyclic

The two groups being eliminated must be in **AXIAL** positions to one another! The rate is affected by the conformer that can undergo the elimination.

1. Find the β -hydrogens
2. Are the groups being eliminated **AXIAL**? (anti-periplanar)
3. No β -hydrogens = no elimination.
4. A chair with more accessible β -hydrogens will undergo elimination more readily than one with fewer.

WEAK Nucleophile, i.e. a weak base or the conjugate of a strong base (H_2O , $MeOH$, $(CH_3)_3COH$)

LOWER temp

HIGH temp (Δ)

S_N1 or $E1$

Carbo-Cation Rearrangement?

Carbo-Cation Rearrangement?

Cyclic

Both syn and anti elimination occur. Major prod = one with bulkiest groups

Groups being eliminated do **NOT** have to be axial to each other. Remember, a CC^+ rearrangement can occur to increase stability before the elimination, so be careful and check your product with a mechanism.