In Figure 22b, note that the bond angles in ammonia and water are somewhat less than the 109.5° bond angles of a perfectly tetrahedral molecule. These angles are smaller because the unshared electron pairs repel electrons more strongly than do bonding electron pairs.

Table 5 also includes an example of an AB₂E type molecule. This type of molecule results when a central atom forms two bonds and retains one unshared electron pair.

Finally, in VSEPR theory, double and triple bonds are treated in the same way as single bonds. And polyatomic ions are treated similarly to molecules. (Remember to consider all of the electron pairs present in any ion or molecule.) Thus, Lewis structures and Table 5 can be used together to predict the shapes of polyatomic ions as well as molecules with double or triple bonds.

VSEPR Theory and Molecular Geometry

	Molecular shape	Atoms bonded to central atom	Lone pairs of electrons	Type of molecule	Formula example	Lewis structure
Linear	•	2	0	AB ₂	BeF ₂	:Ë-Be-Ë:
Trigonal- planar		\3	0	AB ₃	BF ₃	;Ë B ;E;
Bent or Angular		2	1	AB ₂ E	ONF	Ö, Ë:
Tetrahedral		4	0	AB ₄	CH₄	H H-C-H H
Trigonal- pyramidal		3	1	AB₃E	NH ₃	Н Н Н
Bent or Angular		2	2	AB ₂ E ₂	H ₂ O	Н Н
Trigonal- bipyramidal	90°	5	0	AB ₅	PCI ₅	: Çl : çl : : Çl - P : Çl : Cl :
Octahedral	90°	6	0	AB ₆	SF ₆	: F: F: F: : F: : F: : F: