

Balancing Chemical Equations

In a chemical reaction, atoms are not made or destroyed. They are simply rearranged.

There must be the same number of each type of atom on each side.

To balance a chemical equation, you may only change the coefficients (numbers in front of the molecule). You may NEVER change the subscripts.

Steps to Balance Equations:

1. Determine the number of each atom on each side of the equation.
2. Choose an element that is not equal on both sides of the equation.
3. Place coefficient(s) to attempt to balance that element.
4. Update the number of atoms on each side of the equation.
5. Continue until every element is balanced.

