

Rules for Balancing Equations

- 1) Get a pencil! Stay calm.
- 2) Write the skeleton equation – this means convert the names of chemicals into formulas.
- 3) Be sure that all formulas are written correctly.
- 4) Count atoms of each element on each side of the arrow to figure out what needs to be balanced.
- 5) Change ONLY coefficients to balance, **NEVER change subscripts!**
- 6) Reduce coefficients to lowest ratio. (i.e. 2:4 ration, is 1:2)
- 7) Check your work when done.

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