

How do we balance equations?

Balance equations by changing **coefficients** 😊

Never by changing formula **subscripts** ☹️

Steps:

1. Write all reactants on the left and all products on the right side of the equation arrow. Make sure you write the correct formula for each element.
2. Use coefficients in front of each formula to balance the number of atoms on each side.
3. Multiply the coefficient of each element by the subscript of the element to count the atoms. Then list the number of atoms of each element on each side.
4. It is often easiest to start balancing with an element that appears only once on each side of the arrow. These elements must have the same coefficient. Next balance elements that appear only once on each side but have different numbers of atoms. Finally balance elements that are in two formulas in the same side.