

### 4.3 Balancing Chemical Equations

- Chemical reactions result in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ♦ \_\_\_\_\_ occur when new substances are created.
  - ♦ The original substance(s), called \_\_\_\_\_, change into new substance(s) called \_\_\_\_\_.
- Chemical reactions can be written in different ways.
  - ♦ A word equation:
    - ♦ \_\_\_\_\_
  - ♦ A symbolic equation:
    - \_\_\_\_\_
- Chemical change means \_\_\_\_\_ are created.
  - ♦ No \_\_\_\_\_ is created or destroyed; atoms are just rearranged.
  - ♦ All of \_\_\_\_\_ in the reactants = all of \_\_\_\_\_ in the products.
  - ♦ John Dalton, 200 years ago, realized that \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ♦ Number of each \_\_\_\_\_ = number of each atom in products.
- The law of \_\_\_\_\_:

- ◆ In chemical reactions, atoms are neither \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_.
- ◆ This law was developed by Antoine and Marie-Anne \_\_\_\_\_ in the 1700s.
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_
- The simplest form of chemical equation is a word equation.
  - ◆ Potassium metal + oxygen gas → potassium oxide
- A \_\_\_\_\_ equation shows the formulas of the elements/compounds.
  - ◆ A \_\_\_\_\_ equation shows atoms, but not quantities of atoms.

- A \_\_\_\_\_ chemical equation shows all atoms and their quantities
  - ◆ Balancing ensures that \_\_\_\_\_ is the same on both sides of the reaction arrow.
  - ◆ Always use the smallest whole-number ratio.

- Using the law of conservation of mass, we can count atoms to balance the number of atoms in chemical equations.

Word equation: methane + oxygen → water + carbon dioxide

Skeleton equation: CH<sub>4</sub> + \_\_\_\_\_

To balance the compounds, take note of how many atoms of each element occur on each side of the reaction arrow.

♦ Skeleton equation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ carbon, \_\_ hydrogen, \_\_ oxygen → \_\_ carbon, \_\_ hydrogen,  
\_\_ oxygen

♦ To balance, attempt to find values that equate atoms on both sides

♦ Balanced equation: \_\_\_\_\_

• Word equations require careful examination to be written correctly.

♦ The chemical symbol is used for most elements not in a compound.

▪ Be careful of \_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_ elements

such as O<sub>2</sub>, P<sub>4</sub> and S<sub>8</sub>.

▪ The “special seven” are all diatomic elements

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♦ Several common covalent molecules containing hydrogen have common names that you should know.

For example, methane = \_\_\_\_\_, glucose = \_\_\_\_\_,

ethane = \_\_\_\_\_, ammonia = \_\_\_\_\_

♦ Balance chemical equations by following these steps:

\_\_\_\_\_ will work but can be very inefficient.

Balance compounds \_\_\_\_\_ and elements \_\_\_\_\_.

Balance \_\_\_\_\_ compound at a time.

Only add \_\_\_\_\_; NEVER change subscripts.

If \_\_\_ and \_\_\_ appear in more than one place, attempt to balance them LAST.

\_\_\_\_\_ ions (such as  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ) can often be balanced as a whole group.

Always double-check after you think you are finished.

Note: you will need to be able to do this on your own, however, you can always check your answers. Search the internet for “balancing chemical formula” and some websites can provide you with a “balancing calculator”.

- Balance the following:
  - ♦  $\text{Fe} + \text{Br}_2 \rightarrow \text{FeBr}_3$
  - ♦  $\text{Sn}(\text{NO}_2)_4 + \text{K}_3(\text{PO}_4) \rightarrow \text{K}(\text{NO}_2) + \text{Sn}_3(\text{PO}_4)_4$
  - ♦  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_6 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow \text{CO}_2 + \text{H}_2\text{O}$