CHEMICAL PROCESSES 3

Chemical Equations: Balancing

CONSERVATION OF MASS

This law states that as atoms are neither created or destroyed in a chemical reaction, then the total mass of the products is always equal to the total mass of the reactants.

So, we can use this property to write and balance chemical equations.

- Paper clip activity

THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Special 7 + 2

Activity - Make your own mnemonic to remember the above

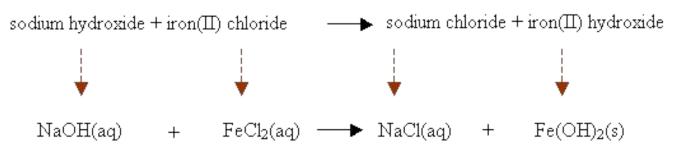
CHEMICAL EQUATIONS

Chemical Equations show the change in the chemical structure and arrangement of atoms from the starting reactant to the final products.

Chemical equations can be written in words (word equation) or in chemical equations (symbolic equation).

Reactants are written on the left or the arrow and the products are written on the right hand side.

States of matter can be included to show whether each reactant and product is solid (s), liquid (l), gas (g), or aqueous (aq).



WRITING AND BALANCING CHEMICAL EQUATIONS

Steps:

1. Write a **word equation**. This provides the names of **reactants** and **products** and is the starting point for writing and balancing chemical equations.

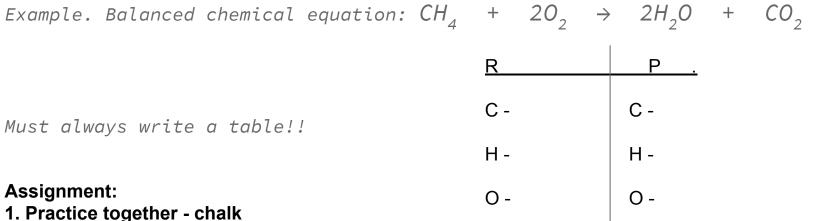
Example. Word equation: methane + oxygen \rightarrow water + carbon dioxide

2. Write a **skeleton equation** : write the formulas, although this does not show the correct proportions which we will do in the next step.

Example. Skeleton equation: $CH_4 + O_2 \rightarrow H_2O + CO_2$

3. Write a **balanced chemical equation**: shows the true proportions of reactants and products involved in the reaction.

Chemical equations are balanced using the lowest whole number **coefficients** and are placed in front of the formula or chemical symbol for each product or reactant.



- 2. Polonoing Chamical Equations
- 2. Balancing Chemical Equations H/O (3a)
- 3. Checking your understanding of Balancing Chemical equations (every other letter on #3, 4) (3b)