

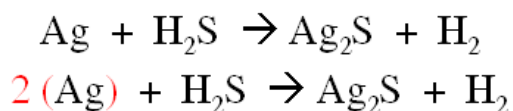
Balancing Chemical Equations

Here are 5 problems designed to teach students how to balance chemical equations. They start easy so students can see what's going on and build confidence.

Before doing even the easy problem you've got to establish the ground rules- 1. subscripts (little numbers below) cannot change, 2. coefficients (big numbers in front) can.

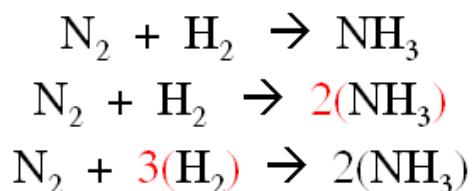
This is available as a PowerPoint (see last page).

Problem One: easy, so you can focus on the process

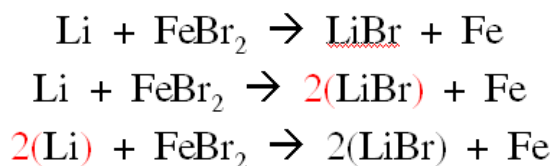


Have students copy line 1. Go over how many of each kind of atom is “going in” and “coming out” of the equation. Remind everyone of the ground rules, then get to work deciding which coefficient to add, and where. Have them re-copy line 2- it's repetitive, but at the end you can see the whole process, start to finish.

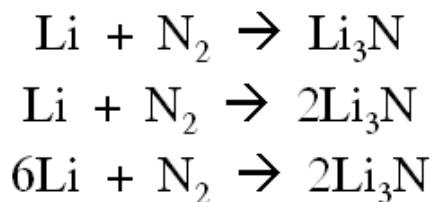
Problem Two: work the same way as problem 1. Stay on the slow and deliberate side.



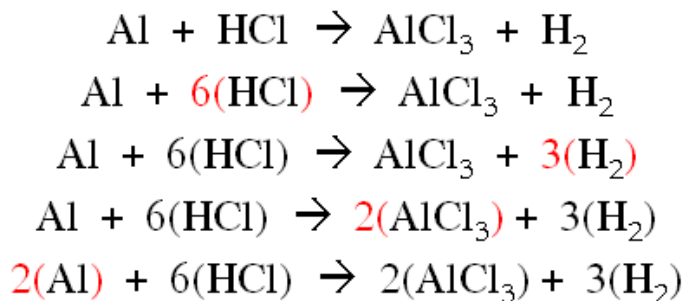
Problem Three



Problem Four



Problem Five: be careful on step two- you'll want to put a 2 in front of the HCl at first to even up the hydrogens. Go ahead and do that, but be ready to come back and change it.



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PowerPoint- lead your students through the lesson click-by-click

Balancing Equations

