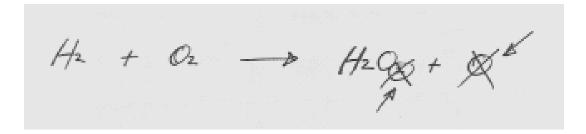
Hydrogen reacts with oxygen to form water.

$$H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow H_2O$$

What's wrong? It doesn't "balance."

## <u>Aim</u>: How do we balance chemical equations?

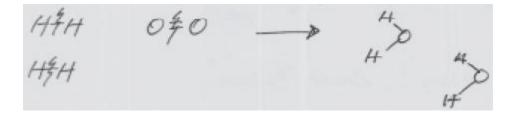


- 1) Don't change the subscripts.
- 2) Don't add/subtract substances.
- 3) Just multiply the substances in the equation by changing the **coefficients**.

$$2 H_2 + 1 O_2 \rightarrow 2 H_2O$$

The "1" in front of O<sub>2</sub> is assumed.

If you're having a problem, picture this:



Let's do an atom count.

<u>Check</u>: **coefficient x subscript** = **# atoms** 

A chemical equation must balance to satisfy the <u>Law of Conservation</u> which states that matter and energy cannot be created nor destroyed. Therefore, the total number of atoms on both sides of the equation must be equal.

## Let's do some more problems. Go to Balancing Act 1.

