

CHEMICAL EQUATION TERMS, SYMBOLS, AND NOTATIONS

TERM , SYMBOL, NOTATION	MEANING
Reactant(s)	The starting substances substance(s) on the left side of the equation
Product(s)	The new substances substance(s) on the right side of the equation
\longrightarrow \longleftarrow \rightleftharpoons =	yields--separates the products from the reactants
subscript (g) or \uparrow	gas phase or gas as a product
subscript (l)	liquid phase
subscript (s) or \downarrow or underlining a formula, <u>NaCl</u>	solid phase or solid as a product precipitating or coming out of solution.
subscript (aq)	aqueous solution ; substance dissolved in water
subscript (c)	crystalline solid
Δ above or below yields symbol $\xrightarrow{\Delta}$ $\xrightarrow{\Delta}$	heat is needed for reaction to start or go to completion
symbol or formula above or below yields symbol $\xrightarrow{\text{Pt}}$ $\xrightarrow{\text{MnO}_2}$	catalyst---speeds up or slows down reaction but is not altered during the reaction
+	separates each reactant and each product

!!!! Under no circumstances do you change the correct formula of a compound to balance a chemical equation !!!!

Check all coefficients to be sure they are whole numbers and in the lowest possible ratio.