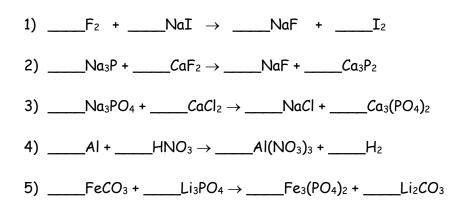
## **Balancing Chemical Equations**

- We balance equations with coefficients to following the Law of Conservation of Mass.
- Remember that you choose an element on left side of the equation. Ask yourself, "How many of that element are on the right side of the equation." Then use a coefficient to "balance" them to be the same number.
- You might have to use the least common multiple.
- Keep polyatomic ions together as a unit. For example, "How many phosphates do I have on the left side? How many phosphates do I have on the right side?"



## Identifying, Writing, & Balancing Chemical Reactions

Step 1: Write the formulas for the reactants.

Step 2: Identify the type of reaction.

- Synthesis:  $A + B \rightarrow AB$
- Decomposition:  $AB \rightarrow A + B$
- Single Replacement:  $A + BC \rightarrow AC + B$  (always pair cation & anion!)
- Double Replacement:  $AB + CD \rightarrow AD + CB$

Step 3: Write the formulas for the reactants.

- Cross charges where elements are bonded.
  - When an element is alone, check to see if it is diatomic: Br I N Cl H O F
    - If it is, put a subscript of 2

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Step 4: Balance the equation.
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Reaction type?	Complete the reaction and balance.
1)	Sodium + chlorine $\rightarrow$
2)	Calcium fluoride + iron II hydroxide →
3)	Strontium nitride $\rightarrow$
4)	Magnesium chloride + potassium $ ightarrow$