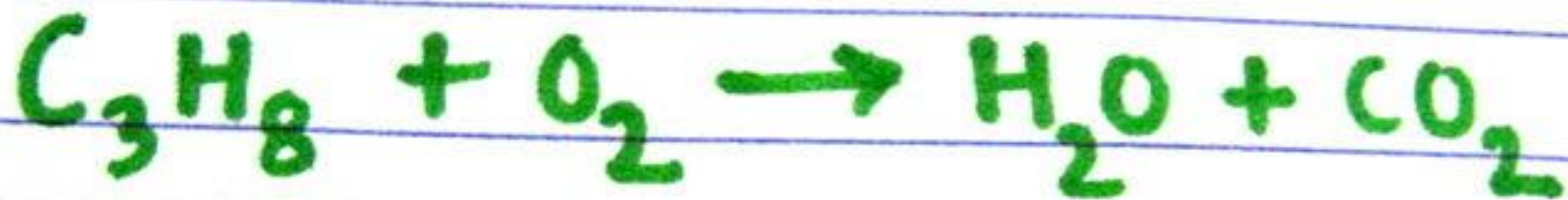


# How to Balance Chemical Equations



**1. Write down your given equation.**



Left Side

Right Side

C	3	1
H	8	2
O	2	3

2. Write down the number of atoms that you have on each side of the equation. Look at the subscripts next to each atom to find the number of atoms in the equation.



Left Side

Right Side

C

3

1

H

8

2

O

2

3

**3. Always leave hydrogen and oxygen for last.**

This means that you will need to balance the carbon atoms first.



Left Side

Right Side

C

3

3

H

8

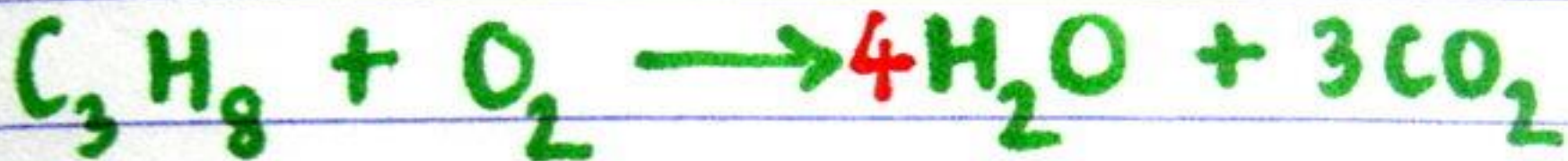
2

O

2

7

4. Add a coefficient to the single carbon atom on the right of the equation to balance it with the 3 carbon atoms on the left of the equation.



Left Side

Right Side

C

3

3

H

8

8

O

2

10

5. Balance the hydrogen atoms next.

You have 8 on the left side. So you'll need 8 on the right side



Left Side

Right Side

C

3

3

✓

H

8

8

✓

O

10

10

✓

6. Finish by balancing the oxygen atoms.



7. The carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen atoms are balanced. Your equation is complete.

