

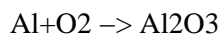
Re: Balancing Chemical Equations

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.chem/2006-10/msg00226.html>

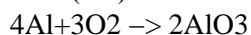
- *From:* "Craig" <cagerken@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 17 Oct 2006 13:15:19 -0700
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Protoman wrote:

Hi!!! I'm learning to balance chemical equations, and can you give me some pointers? This is the one I'm currently working on:



Do I balance it like this:



The second equation should read "Al₂O₃" for the product. Otherwise, both are correct. Some people prefer the first one, because it results in one equivalent of the synthesized product. Some people prefer the second, since it has all whole number coefficients. As a student, you should check with your instructor to find out which form is preferred. Some instructors don't care, but many do. It is common to ask beginning students to balance to all whole number coefficients, for example. In practice, both convey the same information.

– Craig

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