Steps in Balancing Chemical Equations

A. Write a correct chemical equations for the reaction
   Make sure the chemical symbols and chemical formulas are written correctly

B. Count the number of atoms of each element on each side of the arrow
   If the numbers are the same, the equation is balanced

C. If the numbers are not the same, the equation must be balanced by using Coefficients
   1. Balance the different types of atoms one at a time
   2. First, balance they types of atoms that appear only once on each side of the equation.
   3. Balance polyatomic ions that appear on both sides of the equation as a single unit.
   4. Balance hydrogen and oxygen atoms after all other elements have been balanced.

D. Check your work by counting the atoms of each element to make sure they are the same on both sides of the equation.