HW14 How to balance a chemical equation.

You can use the following website:

https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/html/balancing-chemicalequations/latest/balancing-chemical-equations en.html

You can use some rules, but remember there are a few exceptions to the rules.

- 1. Begin by balancing one element at a time.
- 2. First balance elements that appear only once on each side of the equation. Balance multi-element compounds like KCl before balancing single-element terms like Cl₂. Balance H and O atoms last.
- 3. At the end check the number of all atoms. The numbers on the left should be equal to the numbers to the right for the same elements.

Examples:

$$Fe_2O_3 + CO \longrightarrow Fe + CO_2$$

First add a coefficient to balance iron

$$Fe_2O_3 + CO \longrightarrow 2Fe + CO_2$$

Carbon is already balanced. We have to balance oxygen.

$$Fe_2O_3 + 3CO \longrightarrow 2Fe + 3CO_2$$

Check the balance: we have 2 Fe, 3 C, and 6 O atoms on both sides.

$$C_3H_8 + O_2$$
 \longrightarrow $CO_2 + H_2O$

Putting a coefficient 4 with water will balance hydrogen. Inserting a 3 with carbon dioxide (CO₂) will balance carbon

$$C_3H_8 + O_2 \rightarrow 3CO_2 + 4H_2O$$

Now we have 10 oxygen atoms on the right, so we need a 5 with O₂

$$C_3H_8 + 5 O_2$$
 \longrightarrow $3CO_2 + 4H_2O$

Now we have 3 C, 8 H, and 10 O on both sides.

Questions

I. Balance the following equations:

1. NO +
$$O_2 \rightarrow NO_2$$

2. Fe +
$$Cl_2 \rightarrow FeCl_3$$

3. C +
$$H_2 \rightarrow C_5H_{12}$$

4.
$$C_6H_{14} + O_2 \rightarrow CO_2 + H_2O$$

- **II.** Write down compounds where oxygen has oxidation number:
- a) +2
- b) +1
- c) -1