

Name

Counting atoms

The formulae of compounds tell us how many of each type of atom they contain. MgO is the formula of magnesium oxide. It contains 1 magnesium atom and one oxygen atom.

A subscript number on the right of an atom, or group of atoms in brackets, tells us there are more than 1 of that type of atom.

H₂O for water tells us that there are 2 atoms of hydrogen and 1 of oxygen

H₂O₂ for hydrogen peroxide tells us there are 2 hydrogens and 2 oxygens

KNO₃ tells us that potassium nitrate contains 1 potassium, 1 nitrogen and 3 oxygens

Mg(NO₃)₂ tells us that magnesium nitrate contains 1 magnesium, 2 nitrogens and 6 oxygens

How many of each type of atom are there in...

1. Na₂O
2. Al₂O₃
3. CuSO₄
4. Ag(NO₃)₂
5. (NH₄)₂SO₄

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