COUNTING ATOMS

RULES FOR COUNTING ATOMS

1. SUBSCRIPTS only refer to the atom that they are BEHIND. For example...

There are TWO atoms of HYDROGEN and only ONE atom of SULFUR.

COEFFICIENTS

2. COEFFICIENTS apply to the entire compound. You MULTIPLY the coefficients and SUBSCRIPTS.

2 H₂S

ATOMS OF HYDROGEN: 4

ATOMS OF SULFUR: 2



PARENTHESES

3. If elements or compounds are inside of **PARENTHESES**, then the **SUBSCRIPT** behind the parentheses applies to everything inside.

Ba(OH)₂

ATOMS OF BARIUM: 1

ATOMS OF OXYGEN: 2

ATOMS OF HYDROGEN: 2

LET'S PRACTICE!

MgCl₂

Atoms of Magnesium: 1

Atoms of Chlorine: 2

Al₂S₃

Atoms of Aluminum: 2

Atoms of Sulfur: 3

PRACTICE

H₂SO₄

Atoms of Hydrogen: 2

Atoms of Sulfur: 1

Atoms of Oxygen: 4

CH₃OH

Atoms of Carbon: 1

Atoms of Hydrogen: 4

Atoms of Oxygen: 1

THIS COULD BE A LITTLE TRICKY...

 $Ca_3(PO_4)_2$

Atoms of Calcium: 3

Atoms of Phosphorus: 2

Atoms of Oxygen: 8

 $Al_2(SO_4)_3$

Atoms of Aluminum: 2

Atoms of Sulfur: 3

Atoms of Oxygen: 12

What about this BAD BOY???

 $2Ca_{3}(PO_{4})_{2}$

Atoms of Calcium: 6

Atoms of Phosphorus: 4

Atoms of Oxygen: 16

