

Chemical Formulas

- A chemical formula is a way writing out the atoms make up different substances
- They use a combination of letters , number and parenthesis to do this
- Letters
 - The letters used are the atomic symbols for the elements that make up the substance
- Numbers
 - The numbers tell you how many of each atom there are in the substance
 - Numbers are written as a subscript (small number)
 - So “Ca₂“ means 2 atoms of Calcium
 - If there is not a number written there is only one atom
 - So “Ca” means 1 atom of Calcium
- Parenthesis
 - Used when there are several atoms with the same number of atoms
 - So Ca(OH)₂ means there is 1 atom of Ca 2 of O and 2 of H