

Using Chem Boxes for Chemical Notation (Tutorial A10)

http://www.atomiclearning.com/k12/en/movie/92864/play_window?type=Tutorial&sid=2410

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A Chem Box allows you to input chemical formulas and equations into a Notes or Question application. Chem Boxes use a

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simple set of rules to adjust the formatting of subscripts and superscripts more easily. In the Notes application,

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press menu, then choose Insert, Chem Box. This will open a Chem Box into which you can type a chemical formula or

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chemical equation. I'd like to enter the standard formula for Calcium Carbonate. I'll type C and then A for Calcium,

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and you'll see the C is uppercase and the a lowercase, so that looks good. If I type C and then O, though, you'll

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see that by default the C is capitalized, and the o is lowercase, which is the symbol for cobalt, not the C for

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carbon and the O for oxygen. Chem Box doesn't know that I want the capital O for oxygen unless I format it correctly

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myself, so I'll press the delete key to get rid of that lowercase o, and then press Shift and then O so that the

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formula looks correct again. Now I can type the number 3, and you'll see it's automatically formatted as a subscript.

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Let's say I want to show the decomposition of Calcium Carbonate into calcium oxide and carbon dioxide. You can press the

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equals key to create the yield symbol in a Chem Box, so I'll press that first. Next, I'll type C, A, O. That looks

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great. As you'd expect, pressing the plus key will show the addition symbol in a Chem Box to separate two reactants

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or products, so I'll press the plus key next. Now I'll type C, and then remember that if you just type O you'll

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get the symbol for Cobalt, which we don't want here, so I'll press Shift first, then O for oxygen, and then the

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number 2. To get out of a Chem Box, press the escape key. You can get a superscript in a Chem Box by using the carot

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key. I'll press the return key, and then Menu, Insert, Chem Box to place a new Chem Box in Notes. Now I'll type P, then

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Shift-O, and then 4. Now I'll press that carot symbol, and press 3. With three molecules of phosphate, I need

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to show I've got a negative charge. The best way to show that here is to press the minus key after the three. Note

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that the Chem Box will not perform any chemical calculations; it only represents what you type in chemical notation.

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