

Follow along as you view the video, “Stoichiometry: Limiting Reactants” on [edpuzzle.com](http://edpuzzle.com) and fill in the blanks as you go. (Also available at [https://youtu.be/\\_B556kf4g1g](https://youtu.be/_B556kf4g1g))

- What is a limiting reactant?
  - Reactant that gets used up (“depleted”) first
    - Limits the amount of product formed because reaction stops when the reactant is gone
      - recall combustion of ethyl alcohol from reactions lab—used up alcohol, but plenty of O<sub>2</sub> remained
  - *Excess Reactant* is reactant that is left over when reaction stops

- How to identify the **limiting reactant**

- For the reaction  $\text{N}_2(\text{g}) + 3\text{H}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 2\text{NH}_3(\text{g})$ ,
  - If you have 1 mol N<sub>2</sub> and 3 mol H<sub>2</sub>, then both get used up (neither is limiting)
  - But if mole amounts are different from coefficients, need to compare *equivalents*:
    - e.g. if there are 1 mol N<sub>2</sub> and 2 mol H<sub>2</sub>, divide *actual* moles by *coefficient* moles to get *equivalents*:

$$\text{Equiv. N}_2 = \frac{1 \text{ mol N}_2}{1 \text{ mol N}_2} = 1; \text{Equiv. H}_2 = \frac{2 \text{ mol H}_2}{3 \text{ mol H}_2} = 0.67$$

- Since  $0.67 < 1$ , H<sub>2</sub> gets used up first, and is limiting reactant
- Slightly harder example:
  - If there are 2.3 mol N<sub>2</sub> and 7.6 mol H<sub>2</sub>, which reactant is limiting?
 
$$\text{Equiv. N}_2 = \frac{2.3 \text{ mol N}_2}{1 \text{ mol N}_2} = 2.3; \text{Equiv. H}_2 = \frac{7.6 \text{ mol H}_2}{3 \text{ mol H}_2} = 2.5$$
    - $2.3 < 2.5$ , so N<sub>2</sub> gets used up first and is the limiting reactant
- Mass-Mass problems

- For the same reaction, determine the limiting reactant if there are 20.0 g N<sub>2</sub> and 10.0 g H<sub>2</sub>:
  - First we must determine the number of moles of each reactant:

$$20.0 \text{ g N}_2 \times \frac{1 \text{ mol N}_2}{28.02 \text{ g N}_2} = 0.714 \text{ mol N}_2; 10.0 \text{ g H}_2 \times \frac{1 \text{ mol H}_2}{2.016 \text{ g H}_2} = 4.96 \text{ mol H}_2$$

- Next determine equivalents, as before:

$$\text{Equiv. N}_2 = \frac{0.714 \text{ mol N}_2}{1 \text{ mol N}_2} = 0.714; \text{Equiv. H}_2 = \frac{4.96 \text{ mol H}_2}{3 \text{ mol H}_2} = 1.65$$

- $0.714 < 1.65$ , so N<sub>2</sub> is limiting.
- You try it:
  - For the reaction,  $4\text{FeS}(\text{s}) + 7\text{O}_2(\text{g}) \rightarrow 2\text{Fe}_2\text{O}_3(\text{s}) + 4\text{SO}_2(\text{g})$ , what is the limiting reactant if 84.9 g FeS reacts with 64.9 g O<sub>2</sub>?
    - First, determine the moles of each reactant:

$$84.9 \text{ g FeS} \times \frac{1 \text{ mol FeS}}{87.92 \text{ g FeS}} = 0.966 \text{ mol FeS}; 64.9 \text{ g O}_2 \times \frac{1 \text{ mol O}_2}{32.00 \text{ g O}_2} = 2.03 \text{ mol O}_2$$

- Next determine equivalents:

$$\text{Equiv. FeS} = \frac{0.966 \text{ mol FeS}}{4 \text{ mol FeS}} = 0.242; \text{Equiv. O}_2 = \frac{2.03 \text{ mol O}_2}{7 \text{ mol O}_2} = 0.290$$

- Since  $0.242 < 0.290$ , FeS is limiting.