

FIGURE 4 This is a solution plan for problems in which the given quantity is expressed in grams and the unknown quantity is also expressed in grams.

Mass-Mass Calculations

Mass-mass calculations are more practical than other mole calculations you have studied. You can never measure moles directly. You are generally required to calculate the amount in moles of a substance from its mass, which you can measure in the lab. Mass-mass problems can be viewed as the combination of the other types of problems. The plan for solving mass-mass problems is

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{mass of} & \text{amount of} & \text{amount of} \\ \textit{given substance} & \longrightarrow \textit{given substance} & \longrightarrow \textit{unknown substance} & \longrightarrow \textit{unknown substance} \\ \text{(g)} & \text{(mol)} & \text{(mol)} & \text{(g)} \end{array}$$

Three additional pieces of data are needed to solve mass-mass problems: the molar mass of the *given* substance, the mole ratio, and the molar mass of the *unknown* substance.

SAMPLE PROBLEM E

For more help, go to the **Math Tutor** at the end of this chapter.

Tin(II) fluoride, SnF_2 , is used in some toothpastes. It is made by the reaction of tin with hydrogen fluoride according to the following equation.

$$\operatorname{Sn}(s) + 2\operatorname{HF}(g) \longrightarrow \operatorname{SnF}_2(s) + \operatorname{H}_2(g)$$

How many grams of SnF₂ are produced from the reaction of 30.00 g HF with Sn?

SOLUTION

1 ANALYZE Given: amount of HF = 30.00 g

Unknown: mass of SnF₂ produced (g)

2 PLAN The conversion factors needed are the molar masses of HF and SnF_2 and the mole ratio of SnF_2 to HF.

molar mass factor mol ratio molar mass factor
$$g HF \times \frac{mol HF}{g HF} \times \frac{mol SnF_2}{mol HF} \times \frac{g SnF_2}{mol SnF_2} = g SnF_2$$