

What is Anxiety?

A worry is a feeling of unease, fear, or nervousness when thinking about unpleasant things. It is a type of thinking, often about something that might happen in the future, leaving you feeling frightened, nervous, or anxious. Some people call it worries, anxiety, or stress. Everybody experiences fears; however, if you are starting to feel worried more often or can't seem to stop thinking about your worry, leaving you feeling upset, you may be experiencing anxiety. The distress from anxiety often interferes with a person's ability to lead an everyday life. For example, they often feel very nervous about the potential dangers of what could or might happen in certain situations, leaving them feeling constant fear, frozen with fear, stressed, and overwhelmed. Anxiety disorders include phobias, panic, social, and generalized anxiety disorders.

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HAVING ANXIETY IS

NOT

A SIGN OF WEAKNESS

ANXIETY IS A REAL ILLNESS THAT NEGATIVELY AFFECTS HOW YOU THINK, THE WAY YOU FEEL AND **HOW YOU BEHAVE**



Stomachaches, cramps, constipation, fatigue, aches and pains, weakened immune system, weight fluctuations



THOUGHTS

Bias perception, unhelpful thinking, fearful, extreme worrying, having trouble concentrating, worrying about things in the future. "What if?"

BEHAVIOUR

Staying inside a lot, loss of interest in activities, withdrawal from people, feel unable to go to work, or avoid certain places.

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JOURNEY TO SEEING A THERAPIST





I'm sure these feelings will just go away













Everything is gétting much worse

I don't feel like myself, everything is getting worse

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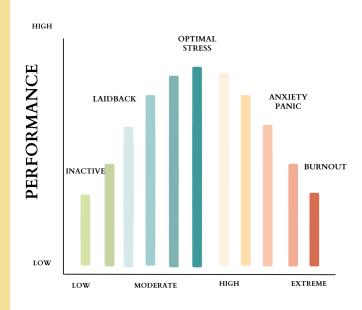
Accept that I need to see a therapist

Therapist BOOKED

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THE STRESS CURVE

CHECK IN WITH YOUR STRESS LEVELS BEFORE YOU BURNOUT

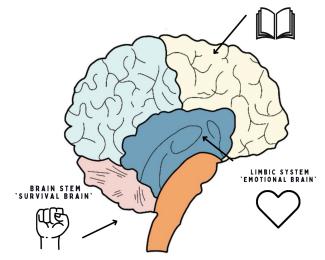


PRESSURE



THE FIGHT OR FLIGHT RESPONSE

FRONTAL LOBE 'THINKING BRAIN'



SURVIVAL BRAIN- Prioritises your survival functions, such as your heart beats faster so that you can breathe in more oxygen, which is important if you need to fight or run

- More energy makes it's way to your limbs so you can run faster and be stronger.
- **`EMOTIONAL BRAIN`** Your emotions become extremely intense and act as a warning sign to help us quickly respond to danger and threats.
- 'THINKING BRAIN'

 Temporarily goes 'offline' so that the energy your brain would normally use is now prioritised to other body systems to help keep

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you safe.

WINDOW OF TOLERANCE

HYPERAROUSAL

- Feelings of extreme anxiousness with possible panic attacks.
- Feel overwhelmed and out of control.
- Want to fight or run away.



WAYS TO SHIFT FROM A FIGHT OR FLIGHT STATE

Engage in some mindfulness exercises, recognise the aroused state that you are in.
Breathe, pause and slow down. Increase your awareness to your thoughts and body sensations.

CAN'T CALM DOWN

OPTIMAL ZONE

- Feel present, calm and safe.
- In total control.



THINGS THAT CAN EXPAND YOUR WINDOW

- -Mindfulness
- Grounding exercisesGratitude
- Positive self talk
- -Deep breathing

SHUTTING DOWN

HYPOAROUSAL

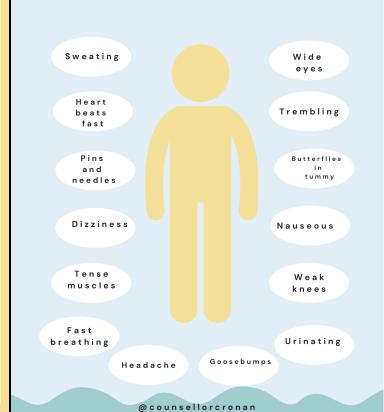
- Feel physically numb and frozen.
- Feel disconnected and zoned out.
 - Lethargic and no energy



WAYS TO SHIFT FROM A FREEZE STATE

Notice the sensations of being in this state. Activate the body through physical movement, stimulate your senses and reach and connect with others.

HOW ANXIETY FEELS IN MY BODY



THOUGHT STOPPING TECHNIQUE



STOP

Interrupt your negative thinking with the command STOP! and pause with what you were doing.



TAKE A BREATH

Practice some deep breathing techniques to slow your heart rate down.



OBSERVE

Observe your thoughts, feelings and behavior. How does your body feel?



PROCEED

Purposefully and mindfully proceed with your next activity, one step at a time.



Mental exercises

Name all the objects that you can see in the room.

Did you notice anything new?

What do you like about this room?

What do you dislike about this room?

Find an object in the room and think about how you would draw it in your mind.

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R

Recognize what is happening.

Consciously acknowledge your thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that are affecting you.

"I have butterflies in my tummy and I am feeling nervous"



Allow life to be just as it is.

Let your thoughts, emotions, feelings, or sensations that you have recognized simply be there.

Pause and relax your body.

I

Investigate with kindness.

Simply pause and ask, what is happening inside me? How am I experiencing this in my body? Or What am I believing? What does this feeling want from me?



Non-identification, you are not the emotion.

Your sense of who you are is not fused with any limiting emotions, sensations, or stories.

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ANXIETY

COPING STATEMENTS

THIS FEELING WILL PASS

MY ANXIETY DOES NOT DEFINE ME

I AM SAFE AND
I WILL BE OK

NOT ALL THOUGHTS
ARE TRUE FACTS

I CAN COPE. I AM STRONG

JUST KEEP BREATHING

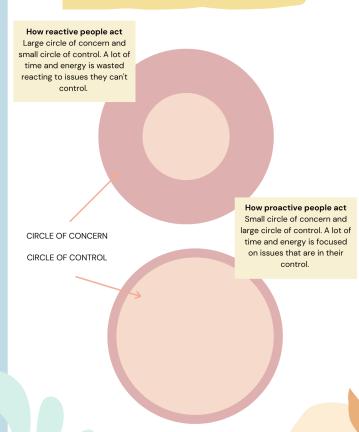
REFRAMING THOUGHTS

Our thoughts determine our behavior. Therefore, it is essential to have positive thoughts. Try and change negative thinking into more positive, productive thinking.



Feeling upset about something outside of your control is like sitting on a rocking chair... It gives you something to do, but it doesn't get you anywhere" Things I can NOT control - So I can let Go of these things past What other people What other people think believe Things I can The control weather - So I will focus on these things Who I spend time with Death My Boundaries goals other's What I post online
My thoughts post My values and online beliefs What I How i spend my My What I say about age other people How people react to my My honesty boundaries Other people's opinions Predicting what will happen The The results of a future sports match @counsellorcronan

CIRCLE OF CONCERN



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Take 5 Breathing

- 1. Stretch your hand out.
- 2. Get the pointer finger of your other hand ready to trace around your hand.
- 3. Trace your finger around each finger on the other hand slowly.
- 4. Whilst you are tracing breathe in through your nose and out your mouth.
 - 5. Keep going until you have traced around your whole hand.
 - 6. Keep repeating until you feel calm again.





ITAKE CARE OF MYSELF

I DO
NOT NEED
TO SOLVE
THIS FEELING

I CAN FEEL ANXIOUS ANDLE STILL HANDLE THIS THIS FEELING
IS A FALSE
ALARM. I AM

SAFE

ANXIETY IS NOT
ALWAYS A SIGNAL

I NEED TO TRUST THE PROCESS. I AM OK

THAT SOMETHING IS

WRONG

I AM BRAVE THOUGHT IN OR OUT OF CONTROL?

MY BRAVERY IS STRONGER THAN MY FEAR

MY FEELINGS ARE
NOT AL WAYS
RATIONAL

IF I REMAIN CALM I CAN OVERCOME THIS

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Iam SMART

Iam BRAVE

Iam STRONG

I can do HARD THINGS

Iam LOVED

Iam IMPORTANT

Iam CAPABLE

Iam ENOUGH

Iam ME

Hands and toe

- 1. Clench your fist. Imagine you are holding a lemon and you are trying to squeeze the juice out of it. Feel the tension in your hand and wrist. Repeat slowly 10 times.
 - 2. Rub both of your hands together quickly, feel the friction between your hands. Can you feel heat? What else can you feel?
- 3. Place both feet flat on the floor. Wiggle your toes. Feel the sensation. Curl your toes, uncurl your toes. Repeat 10 times whilst trying to curl one toe at a time.

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SPEAK KINDLY TO YOURSELF



TYPES OF SELF-CARE

1 PHYSICAL

Sleep, stretching, physical activity, healthy eating and rest.

2 EMOTIONAL

Stress management, gratitude, acts of kindness, forgiveness and compassion.

3 SOCIAL

Personal boundaries, support systems, positive social media and spending time with loved ones.

4 SPIRITUAL

Time alone, space, yoga, meditation, mindfulness, connection and nature.

5 PERSONAL

Hobbies, self-identity, doing the things that bring you enjoyment.

6 SPACE

Safety, organization, clean and tidy, security and stability.

7 WORK

Time management, work boundaries, break time and knowledge.

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Anxiety Scale



ONE

MINIMAL

Little feelings of worry, fear, or nervousness.

Still able to concentrate and get things done.

Little physical symptoms such as heart pounding, and butterflies in the stomach.

TWO

MILD Breathlessness, nausea, headache, muscle tension, heart pounding fast, chest tightness, sweaty, nervous feeling, weak legs, and arms, clumsy, trembling, vomiting

Having a sense of impending danger, panic, or doom

These thoughts and physiological responses are usually short-lived, and you can quickly move past the thoughts and feelings.

THREE

MODERATE All of the above symptoms plus:
Symptoms are more intense and last longer
Changes in sleep and appetite. Avoidance of things you used to find enjoyment in, or avoiding places or people that might trigger your anxiety
Changes in concentration

ratigued

FOUR

SEVERE

All of the above symptoms plus:

Thoughts and feelings come from nowhere and interfere with day-today life—intense and disproportionate emotional responses. Can't let go of thoughts.

DEBILITATING

All of the above symptoms plus:
Waking up in the middle of the night with anxious feelings.
Heart is constantly pounding, nervous and jittery feeling all day.
Dissociation

Anxious thoughts and feelings have been ongoing for weeks or months.

Neck and shoulder awareness

Sit comfortably and breathe in and out slowly. The aim of this exercise is to notice how each part of your body feels.

Start at the top of your head, can you feel your hair? What does it feel like?

Is it rubbing on your face? have you got a hat on? Can you feel your hair

tie?

Start to make your way down to your shoulders, can you feel any tension in your shoulder area? Do you feel tight? Take a deep breath and try to loosen your shoulders and neck. Do a few neck stretches, turn your head to the left and slowly to the right.

Breathe in and out and repeat until you feel calm again.

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5-4-3-2-1

GROUNDING TECHNIQUE

Take a deep breath and identify

- 5 Things you can SEE
- 4 Things you can FEEL
- 3 Things you can HEAR
- 2 Things you can SMELL
- 1 Thing you can TASTE







WHAT IS MY WORRY OR THOUGHT?

THE DEFENCE



WHAT EVIDENCE DO I HAVE THAT MY THOUGHT IS TRUE? FACTS NOT OPINIONS

THE PROSECUTION



WHAT EVIDENCE DO I HAVE THAT MY THOUGHT IS NOT

THE JUDGE'S VERDICT



WHEN I EXAMINE ALL OF THE EVIDENCE, BASED ON THE FACTS, CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY THOUGHT IS LIKELY TO COME TRUE OR UNLIKELY?

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THINGS TO RELEASE



Full body stretch

Stand up straight. Place both feet shoulder width apart.

Find your balance.

Slowly stretch your arms up high, imagine you are trying to touch the sky.

Stretch so high that you have to stand on your tippy toes.

Wriggle your finger tips and feel the stretch in you toes, calves, back, shoulders, arms and fingers.

Relax for 10 seconds

Repeat 10 times or until you feel calm again.



DO GOOD AND GOOD WILL COME TO YOUT



ANXIETY TRIGGER CHECKLIST



Being left alone

Meeting new people

Watching scary shows

School

Going to the doctors

Public speaking

Parents fighting

Birthday parties

Playing sport

Large open spaces

Being sick

Violence

The dark

Sleeping on my own

Trying new food

Going to new places

Large crowds

Getting in trouble

Homework

Loud noises

Certain animals

Watching the news

Doing a performance in front of others

Making new friends

Going in a lift

Not knowing what the plans are for the day

Being left out

Surprises

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THOUGHTS ARE NOT FACTS

Ask yourself these questions.

Is it absolutely true?

is my thought 100% accurate?

Is there any other way I could see my thought in a differently?

Is it possible that my emotions are making me believe that my thought is true?





LET IT GO

Let go of what happened in the past, focus on what you can control.

IGNORE THEM

Ignore people that bring you down. Listen to the people that empower you.

GIVE IT TIME

Healing takes time, everyone's path is different. Healing is not linear.

DON'T COMPARE

Comparison is the thief of joy.

STAY CALM

It's ok not to feel ok, but stay calm and in the end it will all work out.

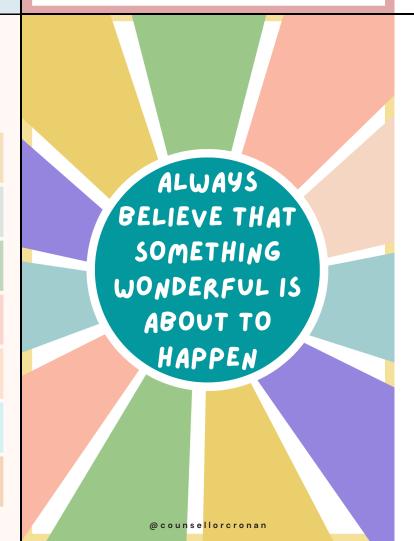
IT'S ON YOU

Don't let anyone control your destiny, your future is on you.

SMILE

Smile so much that your mouth hurts, life is too short not to be smiling.





I CAN'T CONTROL

ANYONE ELSE

BUT I CAN CONTROL

MYSELF

My **Boundaries**

My actions

My honesty

My goals

My values and beliefs

My thoughts

How I treat others

How I treat myself



THIS IS A SAFE SPACE



TO BE

COGNITIVE DISTORTIONS

Mental Filter

Only paying attention to some types of Focusing on your failures while avoiding to see your success.

Catastrophizing

Only seeing the worst possible outcome of an event or situation. As a result, worries become escalated, and thoughts become exaggerated.

Jumping to conclusions

Assuming that you know what other people are thinking.

Predicting the future.

Overgeneralizing

The process of concluding that just because something happened to you once before, it will occur over and over again. It is negative thinking based on only 1 or 2 experiences.

Emotional Reasoning

Believing that just because you feel a certain way then justifying that your thoughts must then be true.

Black and White

Seeing things as either good or bad, right or Seeing Things as either good or bad, right or wrong or all or nothing. Black and white thinking is the tendency to think in extremes. It causes you to think of everything you do in terms of success or failure.

Should Statements Believing that things should be a certain

way. Using 'should', 'must' or 'ought' statements directed at yourself. This

thinking results in feelings of guilt, shame and self-loathing.

Labelling

Putting labels on yourself and others.

> -"I'm unloveable" "They are an idiot"

Blaming

Placing the blame on others

instead of owning up to your

mistakes or sharing the

Taking things personally and thinking that what other people do is a result of your own actions. You may blame yourself for things that were totally

SELF-CARE LOOKS LIKE







Spending time with family and friends

Removing toxic connections

Setting boundaries







Therapy sessions Healthy eating

Being in nature







Mindfulness

Exercising

Affirmations and journalling

responsibility. Taking on the victim mentality.

Personalization

out of your control.

Breathing

INHALE
THROUGH
YOUR NOSE
FOR 4
SECONDS

EXHALE
THROUGH
YOUR MOUTH
SLOWLY FOR
8 SECONDS

HOLD FOR A COUNT OF 7



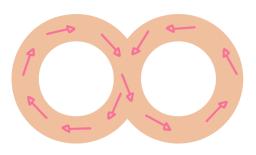
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Tracing

Trace the figure eight with your finger.

Breathe in and out slowly as you trace around the figure eight.

Breathe in through your nose and out through your mouth.



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Mental exercise

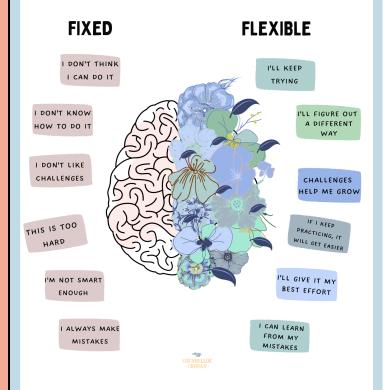
Spell your name backward. Then spell all of your family members' names backward.

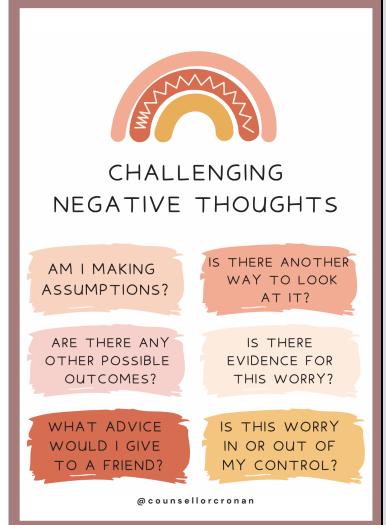
Count backward from 100.

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GROWTH MINDSET

Change your mindset - change your life





Practice Gratitude

Name one good thing that happened today.

A relationship I am grateful for is...

A strength of mine is...

An experience I am grateful for is...

A place I am thankful for...

A food I am grateful for..

Something in nature I am thankful for...

STAR**



DEFENSE MECHANISMS



COMPENSATION

Strengthening one aspect of yourself to hide another



IDENTIFICATION

Unconsciously developing another person's behavior pattern



RATIONALIZATION

Excusing and justifying your behavior



REPRESSION

Suppressing unwanted thoughts and urges from your consciousness



DENIAL

Refusing to accept a negative behavior in yourself



INTROJECTION

Conforming feelings to seek approval



REACTION FORMATION

Behaving in a way that is opposite to your true feelings



RITUAL & UNDOING

Covering up a negative behavior with something



DISPLACEMENT

Taking strong feelings out on someone else



PROJECTION

Ascribing your own negative qualities and faults onto others



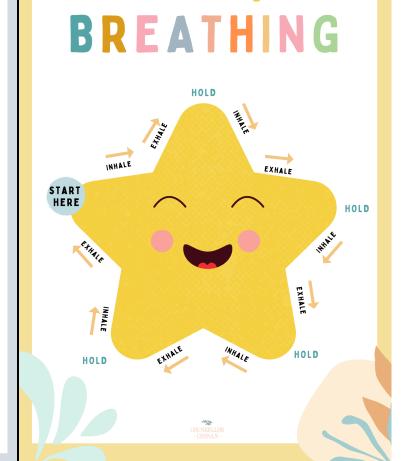
REGRESSION

Using previous developmental behaviors to cope with stress



SUBLIMATION

Diverting a negative behavior into something more positively acceptable



Visualize your favourite place

What do you see?

Where is it?

What can you hear?

What can you smell?

Who is there?

What is it that you like so much about this place?

When did you go there?

When will you be going back?

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Close your eyes and imagine you are holding a feather.

Breathe in slowly and fill your belly with as much air as you can.

Blow out slowly through your mouth and watch the feather float away.

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RAINBOW

GROUNDING TECHNIQUE

Take a deep breath and identify all of these colours in order



Have a look around. How many items could you find?





Imagine you are holding a flower.

Breathe slowly in through your nose and smell the fresh air.

Breathe out slowly through your mouth and watch the petals fly off the flower.





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CHALLENGING NEGATIVE THOUGHTS

AM I MAKING ASSUMPTIONS?

TO LOOK AT IT?

ARE THERE ANY OTHER POSSIBLE OUTCOMES?

IS THERE EVIDENCE FOR THIS WORRY?

WHAT ADVICE WOULD I
GIVE TO A FRIEND?

IS THIS WORRY IN OR OUT OF MY CONTROL?

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HOW TO RECOGNIZE



IN YOURSELF AND OTHERS



Memory



Avoidance



Headaches



Insomnia



Needing reassurance



Procrastination



Rapid heartbeat



Lack of patience



Overthinking



Sweating



Stomach



Constant worrying

Mental exercises

Name everything about your family members including their age, hair, eyes, hobbies, work, interest and anything else that you can think of.

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ANXIETY

GROUNDING TECHNIQUE

FOCUS ON YOUR BREATHING, THEN IDENTIFY

THINGS YOU CAN SEE



THINGS YOU CAN SMELL

THINGS YOU CAN HEAR





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MY ANXIETY DOES NO DEFINE

ANXIETY COPING STATEMENTS

THIS FEELING WILL **PASS**

MY ANXIETY DOES NOT DEFINE ME

I AM SAFE AND I WILL BE OK

NOT ALL THOUGHTS ARE TRUE FACTS

I CAN COPE. I AM STRONG

JUST KEEP BREATHING

FIND THE LETTERS YOUR NAME

Start with the first letter of your name.

Look around the room and find as many items as you can that start with that letter.

Repeat with all the letters in your name.

Which letter had the most items?

Repeat with your middle and last name until you feel calm again.

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THINGS THAT CAN TRIGGER YOUR

TRAUMA

Sounds

Hearing certain music or sounds that remind you of past trauma

Situations

Being in a situation that makes you feel unsafe

Places

Places that have similarities to where the trauma took place

People

Being around people that are linked to or have similarities related to your trauma

Feelings

Just feeling pain unrelated to your trauma can be enough to re trigger your trauma

Death

The death of anyone involved in the trauma can re trigger pain

Thoughts

Certain memories or thoughts can bring back old trauma

Smells

Certain smells are strongly linked to our memories

Media

Seeing something on social media, movie scenes or news reports that are similar to your trauma

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I CAN BE (

FOLLOW THESE STEPS TO HELP COOL DOWN

CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW YOU ARE FEELING?

A SK YOURSELF. WHAT AM I UPSET ABOUT? IS THIS A BIG OR LITTLE PROBLEM?

LISTEN TO YOUR BODY. WHAT ARE YOU FEELING?

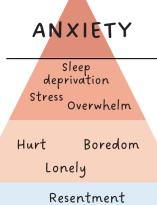
MAKE A LIST OF ALL THE THINGS THAT MAKE YOU HAPPY

E VERYONE GETS UPSET OR WORRIED FROM TIME TO TIME AND THAT IS OK

R REMEMBER HOW YOU OVERCAME THIS FEELING LAST TIME. YOU ARE CAPABLE

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THE ANXIETY PYRAMID



Shame Guilt Criticism

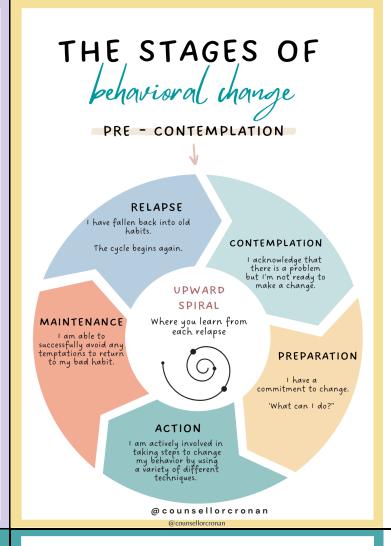
Rejection

Grief and loss

Unprocessed trauma

THE POWER OF YET

I CAN'T DO IT YET I DON'T I DON'T UNDERSTAND GET IT THIS YET BELIEVE YET IN THE THIS POWER OF I'M NOT DOESN'T YET GOOD AT MAKE SENSE THIS IT YET YET DOESN'T WORK YET



GROUNDING TECHNIQUE

CATEGORIES

IN YOUR MIND TRY AND NAME AS MANY THINGS AS YOU CAN FROM EACH CATEGORY FOR 30 SECONDS

MOVIES

FRUIT

COUNTRIES

SINGERS

COLORS

TV SHOWS

SPORTS

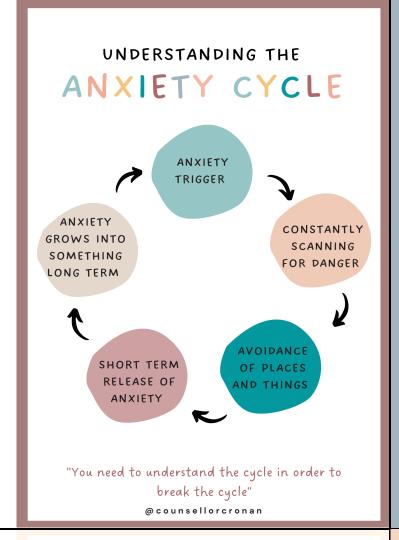
VEGETABLES

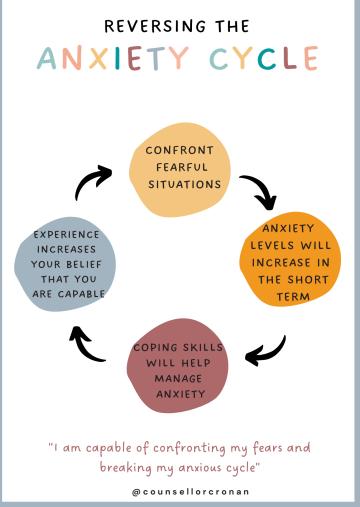
SHAPES

DO YOU FEEL CALMER?

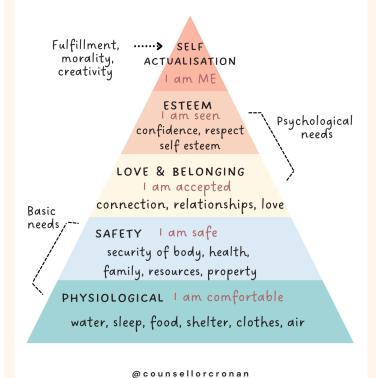
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MENTAL HEALTH
MATTERS





MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



THE HAPPY CHEMICALS AND HOW TO ACCESS THEM

Dopamine

THE REWARD
CHEMICAL

Completing a task

Eating food

Doing self-care activities

Celebrating small wins

Achieving goals

THE LOVE HORMONE

Playing with a pet

Physical affection

Give a compliment

Do something nice

for someone

Hugging your family

Oxytocin

Serotonin THE MOOD STABILIZER Meditate

Swimming
Walk in nature
Spend time in the sun
Mindfulness activities

Endorphin THE PAIN KILLER

Laugh Watch a funny movie Eat dark chocolate Essential oils

Exercise

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CHECK IN

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

BREATHE

Take 5 deep breaths in and centre yourself.

FEEL

Check in with your body and mind.

How are you feeling today?

THANK

Name 3 things you are grateful for?

AFFIRM

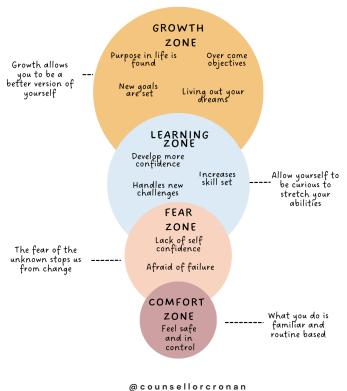
Take a moment to say 5 nice things that you like about yourself.

NEED

What do you need in order to make yourself feel better?

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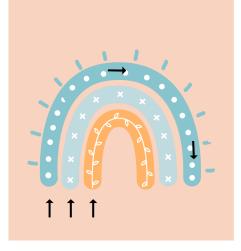
COMFORT ZONE VS GROWTH ZONE



MINDFUL MINUTE



INHALE FOR 5 SECONDS



EXHALE FOR 5 SECONDS

HOLD FOR 5 SECONDS



IT IS OK TO

NEED HELP

BE DIFFERENT

HAVE FEELINGS

BE YOURSELF

TALK TO SOMEONE

NOT BE OK