

Spokane Holistic Healing Client Handout Mindfulness Exercises

Mindfulness exercises can help you stay present, reduce stress, and enhance overall well-being. Here are some practices you might find beneficial:

1. Three-Minute Breathing Space

This quick exercise is ideal for grounding yourself during a busy day:

- 1. **Awareness**: Pause and notice your current experience—thoughts, feelings, and bodily sensations. Acknowledge them without judgment.
- 2. Focus: Direct your attention to your breath, observing each inhalation and exhalation.
- 3. **Expansion**: Expand your awareness to your entire body, noticing any sensations, and then proceed with your day.

This technique is commonly used in mindfulness-based cognitive therapy to improve symptoms of stress and anxiety.

Self

2. Body Scan Meditation

This practice fosters a deeper connection between mind and body:

- 1. **Preparation**: Lie on your back with legs extended and arms at your sides, palms facing up.
- 2. **Attention**: Slowly direct your focus to each part of your body, starting from your toes and moving up to your head.
- 3. **Observation**: Notice any sensations, emotions, or thoughts associated with each area without trying to change them.

Regular practice can enhance bodily awareness and reduce tension.

Mayo Clinic

3. Five Senses Exercise

Engaging your senses can ground you in the present moment:

- **Sight**: Observe five things you can see.
- **Touch**: Notice four things you can feel.



• **Hearing**: Listen for three sounds.

• **Smell**: Identify two scents.

• **Taste**: Acknowledge one taste.

This exercise shifts focus away from stress by immersing you in your immediate environment.

New York Post

4. Mindful Eating

Transform routine meals into mindfulness practices:

- 1. **Observation**: Examine your food's colors, textures, and aromas.
- 2. **Savoring**: Take small bites, chewing slowly, and focus on the taste and texture.
- 3. Awareness: Notice your body's hunger and fullness cues.

Mindful eating can enhance enjoyment and promote healthier eating habits.

5. "Floor Time" Practice

Inspired by a recent trend, this practice involves:

- 1. **Setting**: Find a comfortable spot on the floor, using blankets or cushions as needed.
- 2. **Relaxation**: Lie down and allow your body to relax completely.
- 3. **Breathing**: Focus on your breath, observing each inhale and exhale.

This simple practice can activate the parasympathetic nervous system, reducing stress and promoting relaxation.

Verywell Mind

Incorporating these exercises into your daily routine can help cultivate mindfulness and improve your quality of life.