

EMOTIONAL HEALTH = PROCESS OF WORKING THROUGH EMOTIONS

Work Through Emotions Using Coping Skills

1: Acknowledge: Label
External: What is happening around you?
Name your external triggers
Stress: Change, clutter-chaos, time management, education, employment/career, finances, relationships, parenting, childcare, caregiving, separation, divorce, conflict, criticism, betrayal, judgment, bullying, illness, injustice, abuse, dishonesty, legal problems, crime, natural disaster, trauma, pandemic, death.

Internal: Identify (Mind) & Experience (Body)
How do you feel?
 (Also referred to as internal emotional awareness)

(Mind) Label Emotions:	Bodily Sensations:
Joy	Sadness
Happiness	Anger
Peace	Worry
Acceptance	Jealousy
Pride	Embarrassment
Serenity	Resentment
Trust	Mistrust
Confidence	Inferiority
Security	Insecurity
Healthy Guilt	Shame
Independence	Dependence
Hope	Hopeless

2: Learn
 Consider emotions as **OPPORTUNITIES.**

- 1. Breathe, calm yourself**
- 2. Reality Check**—Cross off the items in column 1 that are not happening, exaggerations, distortions or not true. Cross off anything that is *not* within your control.
- 3. Intention**--What do you want to achieve? Goals? Direction? Role-modeling?
- 4. Choices-- Logic**--What are the possible options? Brainstorm all possibilities, seek resources & learn how successful people coped with distress. How can you problem solve? (*Google to help research*)
- 5. Values:** What advice would you give a beloved who felt this way in a similar situation? Roles reversed, how would you wish to be treated? **What is the right thing to do?**— Use Wise mind: align action with values, maintain dignity and role model what you believe in.
- 6. What is the life lesson?** What does this experience teach you? What could you learn?

Stage 3:
Let Go & Grow
 Release the need to control
 That which is out of your control.
 *Face Fears
 *Coping skills replace avoidance & bad habits.

- 1.** Be curious about how to face fears and make changes in small, attainable steps.
- 2.** What resources and support do you need?
- 3.** What could make your lifestyle changes easier, more interesting, more fun?
- 4.** Is there an app for that?

When EXPERIENCING Your EMOTIONS becomes too uncomfortable, COPING SKILLS relieve and soothe your pain.

Coping skills are behaviors, thoughts, resources or tools that assist you in the process of working through painful emotions. Examples of coping skills: meditation, healthy nutrition, exercise, recreation, positive attitude, cognitive reframing, problem-solving strategies and medication as prescribed.

Self-Defeating Behaviors: Cop Out

A cop out is a bad coping skill. It's a self-destructive quick fix that allows you to avoid deny, stuff, or escape your painful emotions and problems rather than dealing with them with dignity or becoming a role model.



Copping out with bad habits creates self-sabotage.

Your **bad habits** and **addictions** mess up your life with negative and harmful consequences.

Bad Habits Addictions

Habitual complaining, blaming, worrying

Excessive working, media, spending, shopping, gambling, eating and obesity.

Dysfunctional relationships: gossip co-dependence: obsessing about other people's behavior and thoughts, affairs, betrayal, excessive porn

Rage addiction: yelling, tantrums, threats, name calling, physical abuse, domestic violence

Substance Addictions: caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, drug abuse,

Sexual addiction
Self-mutilation

You choose your response. Cope or Cop out?

Are you living your best life?