Pranayama Class One - the basics of Sectional Breathing

1	2	3	4	5
Place hands on and breathe into upper abdomen (UA), mid-chest (MC) and upper chest (UC) in turn	Raise arms to 90° to facilitate breathing into upper abdomen	Place hands onto upper abdominal area and breathe into that area	Open arms out to sides to facilitate breathing into mid- chest	Join soles of feet together and hook fingers together above head. Pull on fingers on in breath to engage breath in to mid-chest area, release slightly on out breath
6	7	8	9	10
Raise arms behind head to engage UC breath	Stretch arms above head and flex toes up towards body to engage UC breath	Place hands on UA and breathe into Front, Sides and Back (F,S,B) of that area and out of Back, Sides and Front (B,S,F)	Place hands on MC and breathe into F,S,B of that area and out of B,S,F	Place hands on UC and breathe into F,S,B of that area and out of B,S,F
11	12	13	14	15
Breathing into F,S,B, of UA area and out of B,S,F	Breathing into F,S,B, of MC area and out of B,S,F	Breathing into F,S,B, of UC area and out of B.S.F	See next action: Count 1 as you breathe into UA, 2 as you breathe into MC and 3 as you breathe into UC, hold breath in for 3	Follow instructions at 14 from cat ready position
16	17	18	19	20
Count 1 as you breathe out of UA, 2 as you breathe out of MC and 3 as you breathe out of UC, hold breath out for 3	Posture below for exhalation: Progress to a count of 2 in each area for both in and out breath i.e. count to 6 and pause for 3; progress further to 8/4/8/4		Holding hands on and breathing into F,S,B, of UA area and out of B,S,F	Holding hands on and breathing into F,S,B, of MC area and out of B,S,F
21	22	23	24	25
Holding hands on and breathing into F,S,B, of UC area and out of B,S,F	Breathing into UA, MC and UC areas as arms are taken overhead. Breathing out in same order as arms are returned to sides	Complete breath from a lying position	Lying relaxation starting with count into each area (1 UA,2 MC ,3 UC) and continuing complete breath rising to 6,6 ratio and then 9,9 ratio	Each action in this practice could be done six times. Note about 9,9 ratio – this means count 3 as you breathe into UA, 3 as you breathe in MC and 3 as you breathe into UC and reverse.

Tips: Cat move (17) – start movement from tailbone working up body in line with direction of breath; Starting position for 4 is position for 2 (arms up to 90°), starting position for 6 is position for 2.

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