10 Keys to Happier Living

Created by MHFA England in partnership with Action for Happiness. Find out more about the 10 Keys to Happier Living at <actionforhappiness.org>.

Visit <mhfaengland.org> to learn about Mental Health First Aid and how you can support a friend, family member, colleague or student with their mental health.

## Giving

Holding out a helping hand makes other people happy and will make you feel happier too.

**Give it a go:**

* Share your skills or offer support
* Ask friends, family or colleagues how they are and listen without judgement

## Relating

The people around you offer a valuable pool of support so it’s important to put time into strengthening those connections.

**Give it a go:**

* Meet up with someone you haven’t seen in a while
* Turn off distractions to chat with friends or family about your day

## Exercising

Regular activity will provide an endorphin boost and increase confidence.

**Give it a go:**

* Find an activity that suits you and your schedule
* Swap the car on short journeys and cycle or walk to work

## Awareness

Taking time to switch off autopilot and ‘be in the moment’ is a great tool to combat stress.

**Give it a go:**

* Pay attention to your senses — what can you see, hear or feel around you?
* Choose a regular point in the day to reflect

## Trying out

Learning new things is stimulating and can help to lift your mood.

**Give it a go:**

* Take on a new role at work or school
* Try out a new hobby, club or activity that interests you

## Direction

Working towards positive, realistic goals can provide motivation and structure.

**Give it a go:**

* Choose a goal that is meaningful to you, not what someone else expects of you
* Remember to celebrate progress along the way

## Resilience

Although we can’t always choose what happens to us, we can often choose our own response to what happens.

**Give it a go:**

* Find an outlet such as talking to friends or writing it down
* Take action to improve your resilience skills

## Emotions

Positive emotions can build up a buffer against stress and even lead to lasting changes in the brain to help maintain wellbeing.

**Give it a go:**

* Take time to notice what you’re grateful for and focus on the good aspects of any situation
* Set aside time to have fun

## Acceptance

No one is perfect. Longing to be someone different gets in the way of making the most of our own happiness.

**Give it a go:**

* Be kind to yourself when things go wrong
* Shift the focus away from what you don’t have and can’t do, to what you have and can do

## Meaning

People who have meaning in their lives experience less stress, anxiety and depression.

**Give it a go:**

* Prioritise the activities, people and beliefs that bring you the strongest sense of purpose
* Volunteer for a cause, be part of a team, notice how your actions make a difference for others