Tips To Increase Your Energy and Mood

All of us could use more energy. The tips below can help you improve your personal energy and mood to help you get the most out of each day. Choose the tips that appeal most to you to get started. When you feel your new habit is firmly established, look to make other positive lifestyle changes to further enhance your vitality and mood.

**Tip #1 – Take a brisk walk.** A survey of more than 300 Californians ranked exercise as the best way to lift a bad mood. According to renowned mood expert Robert Thayer, Ph.D., a bad mood has two major components, feelings of tension and low energy. Exercise can boost your mood by relieving tension, raising energy and increasing optimism.

If you’re dragging or in a bad mood, take a brisk walk. In experiments conducted by Thayer, a brisk 10-minute walk not only increased energy and mood, but the positive effects lasted for up to two hours. And when daily 10-minute walks continued for three weeks, overall energy levels and mood were lifted.

**Tip #2 – Don’t skip breakfast…or any other meal.** Start your day with a nutritious breakfast. Studies show that people who eat breakfast report being in a better mood and have more energy throughout the day. Other benefits include improved metabolism and better concentration and performance. Additionally, studies published in the journal Nutritional Health found that missing any meal during the day led to an overall greater feeling of fatigue by day’s end.

**Tip #3 – Identify the biggest source of stress in your life and face it head on.** Too much stress drains your energy, undermines your mood and negatively impacts your health. If you’re suffering from overwhelming or chronic stress ask yourself: What is the biggest problem or conflict that is troubling me and how can I deal with it more effectively? Face the issue head on by devising ways to change or manage the aspects of the issue over which you have control. Learn to let go of those aspects over which you have no control.

**Tip #4 – Commit to getting adequate, quality sleep each day.** Many people drag through each day because of nothing more complicated than a chronic sleep deficit. According to a survey by the National Sleep Foundation, those who got fewer than six hours of sleep on weekdays were more likely to describe themselves as stressed, sad, angry and pessimistic. Conversely, those getting adequate sleep reported more positive feelings. For better energy and mood, make the quality and quantity of your sleep a priority. Commit to getting seven to eight hours of sleep each night.

**Tip #5 – Adjust your diet.** What you eat and when you eat affects your energy and mood. Choose one or more of the following tips to help keep your energy and mood stable throughout the day:

### RELIEVE JOB STRESS
1. Set reasonable standards for yourself and others. Don’t expect perfection.
2. Plan your work. Tension builds when your work seems endless. Plan your work to use time and energy most efficiently.
3. Take a break. A change of pace, no matter how short, can give you a new outlook on an old problem.

### HAPPINESS 101
Count your blessings. One way to feel happier is to recognize good things when they happen. If you have trouble counting your blessings, try keeping a gratitude journal. Write down three to five things you’re grateful for once a week. Several studies show that people who record what they appreciate experience greater happiness and less anxiety.

### ANGER MANAGEMENT TIP
Practice deep breathing. If you feel yourself getting angry, don’t let it build up until you have a violent outburst. Try breathing deeply from your diaphragm in long, slow breaths, giving your heartbeat a chance to slow down. Repeat a word such as "relax" or "calm" as you breathe. Breathing deeply will ease your tension.
Workplace Bullying: What You Need To Know

The most recent research reports that workplace bullying is a serious problem. According to a 2010 survey by Zogby International, 35 percent of the U.S. workforce (an estimated 53.5 million Americans) reported being bullied at work. Of these, 9 percent reported they are currently being bullied, while 26 percent reported that at a previous time they have been bullied at work.

What is workplace bullying?

Workplace bullying is the repeated mistreatment of a targeted employee – conducted by bosses or coworkers – which creates a risk to the targets’ physical and psychological health and threatens the targets’ job security. Bullying behavior includes:

♦ Deliberate actions to humiliate, intimidate, undermine or destroy the targeted individual.
♦ The withholding of resources (time, supplies, support, equipment) necessary for the targeted individual to succeed.

Examples of bullying

♦ Unwarranted or invalid criticism
♦ Blame without factual justification
♦ Being treated differently than the rest of your work group
♦ Being sworn at
♦ Exclusion or social isolation
♦ Being shouted at or being humiliated
♦ Being the target of practical jokes
♦ Excessive monitoring

Bullying is different from aggression. Whereas aggression may involve a single act, bullying involves repeated attacks against the target, creating an on-going pattern of behavior.

What to Do

If you believe you are being bullied at work, or if you are presently concerned about a bullying situation at work, call your Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and speak with an EAP counselor. Your EAP counselor can help you develop a plan for dealing with a bully at work and help you resolve the problem. We’re here to help you.

Faculty & Employee Assistance Program Services

Provided by Dartmouth College for you and your family members

The Faculty Employee Assistance Program (F/EAP) is a free, confidential, professional counseling service for members of the Dartmouth College faculty and staff and their families. The F/EAP may be used to address work-related or personal conflicts, including relationship or family problems, substance abuse, stress, and legal or financial concerns. We also provide consultation services for supervisors and departments, as well as maintain a resource directory.

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