

Mindfulness “How” Skills

Don’t Judge

- Notice but don’t evaluate as good or bad. Stick to the observable facts of the situation, using only what is observed with your senses.
- Acknowledge the harmful and the helpful, but don’t judge it. For example, replace “He’s a jerk” with “He walked away while we were talking.”
- You can’t go through life without making judgments; your goal is to catch and replace them with descriptions so you have more control over your emotions.
- When you find yourself judging, *don’t judge your judging*.

Stay Focused

- One-mindfully: Focus your attention on *only* one thing in this moment. Slow yourself down to accomplish this.
- Stop doing two things at once (the opposite of multitasking).
- Concentrate your mind: Let go of distractions and refocus your attention when it drifts, again and again.
- Stay focused so that past, future, and current distractions don’t get in your way.

Do What Works

- Be effective: Focus on what works to achieve your goal.
- Don’t let emotions control your behavior; cut the cord between feeling and doing.
- Play by the rules (which may vary at home, school, work).
- Act as skillfully as you can to achieve your goals.
- Let go of negative feelings (e.g., vengeance and useless anger) and “shoulds” (e.g., “My teacher should have. . .”) that can hurt you and make things worse.

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