

How to Love Yourself

L<u>oving yourself</u> is a transformative journey that can positively impact every aspect of your life. This collection of worksheets is designed to guide you in cultivating self-love by focusing on areas like self-care, gratitude, cognitive restructuring, recognizing personal strengths, and understanding your triggers. By engaging with these worksheets, you will develop a stronger sense of self-worth and learn to appreciate yourself more fully.

Here is a brief introduction to each worksheet included in this collection:

Self-Care Inventory

Practicing self-care is essential for building a loving relationship with yourself. This worksheet will guide you in identifying and incorporating activities that nourish your physical, emotional, and mental well-being. By establishing a personalized self-care routine, you will learn to prioritize your needs, enhancing your sense of self-worth and cultivating deeper self-love.

Cognitive Restructuring

Negative thought patterns can undermine your self-love, making it difficult to see your true worth. The Cognitive Restructuring worksheet helps you identify and challenge these negative thoughts, replacing them with more balanced and self-affirming beliefs. By changing the way you think about yourself, you create a healthier mindset that supports greater self-love.

Personal Strength Inventory

Recognizing your unique strengths and talents is a key part of developing self-love. This worksheet guides you in identifying what makes you special and valuable. By focusing on your positive attributes, you can boost your self-esteem and build a stronger foundation for loving and accepting yourself as you are.

Identifying Your Triggers

Understanding what triggers your self-criticism is crucial for increasing self-love. This worksheet helps you identify the situations, thoughts, or feelings that lead to self-doubt or negative self-talk. By recognizing these triggers, you can develop strategies to manage them, allowing you to respond with greater kindness and understanding towards yourself.

How to Practice Gratitude

Gratitude is a powerful practice that can help you shift your focus from self-criticism to self-appreciation. This worksheet will guide you in recognizing and celebrating the positive aspects of your life, fostering a more loving and compassionate view of yourself. As you practice gratitude regularly, you will begin to see yourself and your life in a more positive light, strengthening your self-love.





Self-Care Inventory

Self-care is any technique that enhances your well-being and replenishes your mind and body. For example, <u>practicing daily gratitude</u>, laughing with a loved one, and taking daily walks can boost your mood and improve overall well-being. A self-care routine is not one-size-fits-all but requires experimenting with different strategies to understand what works best for you.

This worksheet is designed to help you explore a variety of specific <u>self-care activities</u> that can improve your well-being. You will be asked to rank each activity on a scale from 1-3 to determine how well you are currently engaging in these practices. After ranking, you can "star" the activities you would like to do more often. The goal of this worksheet is to help you recognize the different types of self-care available to you, identify what you are doing well, and pinpoint areas where you can improve to feel better overall.

Ra	nking
1	I rarely engage in this, and it is not a regular part of my routine.
2	I occasionally engage in this, but it is not consistent.
3	I regularly engage in this, and it is a frequent part of my routine.
\star	I want to do this more frequently.

1 2 3 **+** Physical Self-Care: Improving your physical health.

Engaging in regular physical activity such as walking, running, yoga, or strength training.
Ensuring you get enough restful sleep each night to rejuvenate your body.
Eating a balanced and nutritious diet, including plenty of fruits, vegetables, and grains.
Drinking enough water throughout the day to stay hydrated.
Maintaining good hygiene practices such as bathing, brushing teeth, and grooming.
Attending regular check-ups and following medical advice from healthcare professionals.
Taking time to relax and unwind, through activities like taking a bath and getting a massage.
Limiting or avoiding the use of alcohol, tobacco, and other substances.
Spending time outdoors in natural sunlight to enhance vitamin D levels and improve mood.
Paying attention to your body's needs, such as stretching when tense or resting when tired.





Self-Care Inventory

123	Emotional Self-Care: Processing & expressing your emotions.
	Participating in activities you enjoy to boost your mood and provide a sense of fulfillment.
	Spending time with friends and family to build support and reduce feelings of isolation.
	Practicing mindfulness to stay present and manage negative thoughts.
	Writing down thoughts and feelings to process emotions and gain insights.
	Keeping a gratitude journal or reflecting on things you are thankful for.
	Using positive affirmations to counter negative self-talk and build self-esteem.
	Using music to relax, uplift your mood, or express your emotions.
	Expressing your emotions through art, music, writing, or other creative outlets.
	Set achievable goals and celebrate your progress, no matter how small.
	Regular sessions with a therapist or counselor to explore and address emotional challenges.

1 2 3 🛧 Social Self-Care: Fostering & maintaining healthy relationships.

Spending time with people you like and make you feel good about yourself.
Asking for help from friends or family when you're feeling down or overwhelmed.
Learning to say no and establishing boundaries to protect your emotional well-being.
Participating in support groups to gain insight and emotional support from others.
Participating in clubs or organizations that align with your interests to meet new people.
Giving your time to help others in your community to foster connection and purpose.
Going to social gatherings, parties, or community events to build your social network.
Scheduling regular get-togethers, such as a weekly coffee date, or a monthly dinner.
Actively listening when talking with others, which helps strengthen your relationships.
Scheduling intentional alone time with your romantic partner.





Self-Care Inventory

123	★ Professional Self-Care: Maintaining a healthy work-life balance and pursuing career development opportunities.
	Clearly defining work hours and sticking to them to ensure a healthy work-life balance.
	Stepping away from work to recharge, through daily short breaks and using vacation time.
	Talking to a supervisor or HR about mental health challenges (if it feels safe).
	Exploring available support options, such as employee assistance programs (EAP).
	Organizing and prioritizing work tasks to manage workload effectively and reduce stress.
	Ensuring your work environment is comfortable and conducive to productivity.
	Establishing achievable work goals and celebrating small accomplishments.
	Being kind to yourself during work and avoiding excessive self-criticism.
	Building positive relationships with coworkers for mutual support and camaraderie.

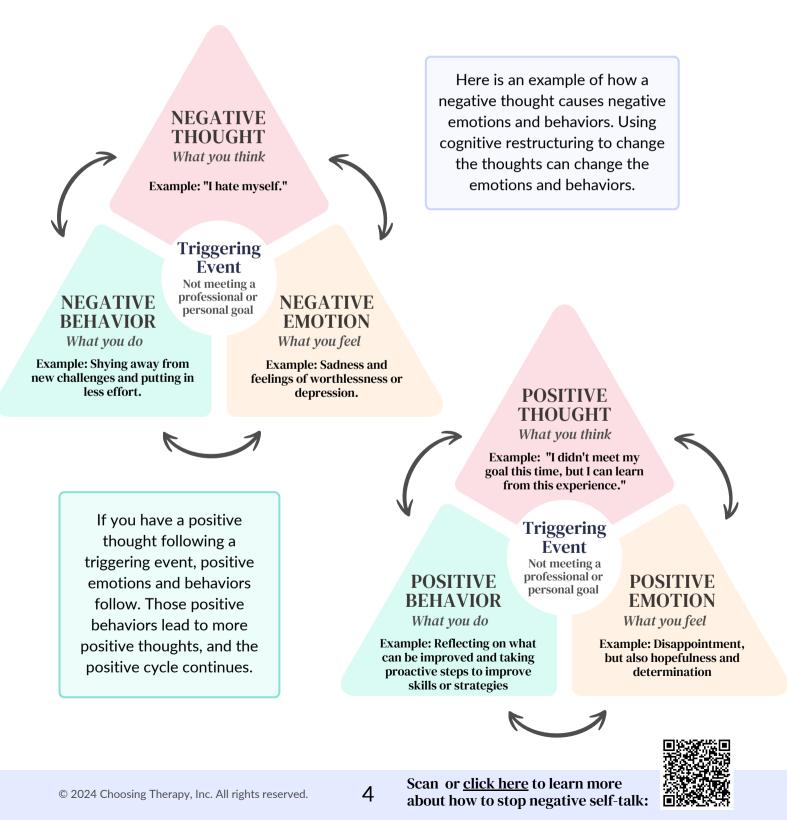
1 2 3 **★** Spiritual Self-Care: Nurturing your spirit and providing purpose.

Practicing meditation to connect with your inner self and find peace and clarity.
Engaging in prayer or other forms of communication with a higher power.
Spending time in nature to experience connection to the world around you.
Regularly reflecting on what you are thankful for to cultivate an appreciative mindset.
Reading inspirational books, scriptures, or quotes to uplift and inspire your spirit.
Participating in spiritual or religious community activities.
Engaging in artistic activities, such as painting, music, or writing.
Performing acts of kindness and service to others, fostering a sense of purpose.
Acting in accordance with your morals to create a sense of integrity in your life.
Spending time with the people who give your life meaning.





Cognitive restructuring is a <u>CBT</u> technique that involves recognizing negative and unhelpful thoughts, examining the evidence for and against these thoughts, and developing more helpful alternative thoughts. For someone struggling with self-love, cognitive restructuring can help challenge and change the self-critical and often irrational thoughts that contribute to your feelings of worthlessness and despair.



Cognitive Restructuring

THOUGHT

Ex: I hate myself

What you think in a situation

EMOTION

How you feel Ex: I feel sad and worthless

BEHAVIOR

How you act in the situation *Ex: I treat myself poorly*

It's important to understand that our automatic thoughts affect our feelings and influence our behavior.

By practicing cognitive restructuring, you can begin to break the cycle of negative self-talk by identifying and challenging the unhealthy thought patterns contributing to it. Whenever you notice negative thoughts that make you feel worse about yourself, use the questions below to help reframe them.

Thoughts	
Is my thought factual?	
What evidence do I have to support my thought?	
What would someone else say about the situation?	
Is it possible to view this situation differently?	



Scan or <u>click here</u> to learn more

about how to stop negative self-talk:



Self-criticism can significantly impact your mental health and overall well-being. Negative internal dialogues can undermine your self-esteem, making you feel inadequate and increasing your stress and anxiety. If you constantly talk to yourself in a negative manner, you can create a cycle of negativity, where you become overly focused on your perceived flaws and failures, which can prevent personal growth.

Creating a personal strengths inventory can be a powerful tool to combat self-criticism and <u>negative self-talk</u>. By identifying and acknowledging your inherent strengths, you can shift your focus from your perceived weaknesses to your positive attributes. Recognizing and celebrating your strengths can boost your self-confidence, reduce the impact of negative self-talk, and promote a healthier, more resilient mindset.





Scan or click here to learn more about

how to overcome your inner self-critic:



Optimism	Humility	Humor	Kindness
l expect the best possible outcome and believe in a brighter future.	I have a modest view of my importance, which allows me to learn from others.	I have the ability to find and share amusement, and create a lighter perspective on challenges.	l am caring, considerate, and desire to help others.
Patience	Love of Learning	Perseverance	Open Mindedness
l stay composed while vaiting or facing challenges, without getting frustrated or giving up.	l have an enthusiasm for acquiring knowledge and skills, driven by a desire for understanding.	I am committed to see things through, despite obstacles and setbacks.	I am willing to consider new ideas and perspectives with receptiveness.
Teamwork	Social Awareness	Spirituality	Enthusiasm
l collaborate effectively with others to achieve a shared goal.	I understand the emotions, needs, and perspectives of others.	I believe in a purpose or connection to something larger than myself.	I have a zest and passion that fuels my excitement and motivation.
Generosity	Problem-Solving	Dependability	Authenticity
l give my time, resources, or skills to help others without expecting anything in return.	l am able to analyze situations, identify solutions, and overcome challenges effectively.	I am reliable and others can count on me to fulfill my commitments and responsibilities.	I live and express myself genuinely, being true to my values and beliefs.
Adventurousness	Assertiveness	Independence	Logic
I am eager to experience new and exciting things, with a sense of curiosity and daring.	I communicate my needs, wants, and opinions clearly and confidently.	I am self-sufficient and resourceful, taking responsibility for my own well-being.	I am able to think clearly and reach sound conclusions based on reason and evidence.





PART 2: Applying Your Strengths to Relationships

Use the prompts to explore how you currently use your strengths in your romantic relationship(s), friendships, and family. Then, discover how you can apply your strengths in new ways to achieve relational growth.

Lists the strengths you possess that help you in your relationships

Describe a specific time your strengths were able to help your relationships

Describe two new ways you could use your strengths to help you in your relationships





PART 3: Applying Your Strengths to Your Profession

Use the prompts to explore how you currently use your strengths in your professional endeavors (at work or school). Then, discover how you can apply your strengths in new ways to achieve professional growth.

Lists the strengths you possess that help you in your profession

Describe a specific time your strengths were able to help your profession

Describe two new ways you could use your strengths to help you in your profession





PART 4: Applying Your Strengths to Achieve Personal Fulfillment

Use the prompts to explore how you currently use your strengths to increase your sense of purpose and enjoyment. Then, discover how you can apply your strengths in new ways to achieve personal growth.

Lists the strengths you possess that help you achieve personal fulfillment

Describe a specific time your strengths were able to help you with personal fulfillment

Describe two new ways you could use your strengths to help you with personal fulfillment



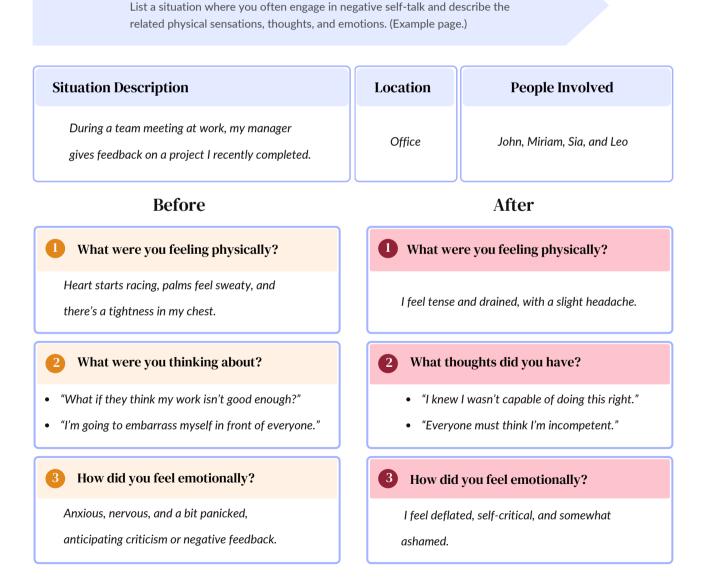


PART 1: Identify Triggers

Identifying Your Triggers

Understanding what drives your <u>negative self-talk</u> is a vital step in breaking the cycle of selfcriticism. Negative self-talk can be sparked by various triggers—situations, events, or thoughts that lead to harsh self-judgment. These triggers might be external, like interactions with certain people or situations, or internal, such as specific thoughts or past experiences.

Recognizing what prompts your negative self-talk means paying attention to the moments when you start to criticize yourself, along with the thoughts, feelings, and physical sensations that come with it. By becoming aware of these triggers, you can learn to catch them early and challenge them, reducing their influence over how you feel about yourself.







Situation Description	Location People Involved		
Before	After		
1 What were you feeling physically?	• What were you feeling physically?		
2 What were you thinking about?	2 What thoughts did you have?		
3 How did you feel emotionally?	3 How did you feel emotionally?		

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PART 2: Identify Patterns (Example Page)

Look for patterns in your negative self-talk triggers. Identifying these patterns will make it easier to anticipate and challenge these thoughts in the future. (Example page.)

Are there common themes, people or situations that often trigger negative self-talk?

Example: I notice negative self-talk when I'm at work and my boss gives me constructive feedback. I immediately think I'm not doing a good job. It also happens when I'm around my sister, who always seems so put together and confident. It's worse when I'm around people who seem very confident or when I feel like I'm being compared to others."

How do you feel physically and emotionally right before the negative self-talk starts?

Physically, I feel tense in my shoulders and neck. My heart rate speeds up, and I get a knot in my stomach. Emotionally, I feel anxious, irritated, or sometimes even ashamed, like I'm about to be judged.

What past experiences might have contributed to the development of these negative thoughts?

I remember my teachers in school pointing out my mistakes in front of the class. I often felt embarrassed and ashamed. I also grew up with a very critical parent who always pointed out what I did wrong, which made me feel like I was never good enough.

How do you usually respond when negative self-talk begins?

I tend to withdraw and become quiet, avoiding eye contact. Sometimes, I overcompensate by trying to be overly helpful or agreeable, hoping people will like me or not notice my flaws.



Scan or <u>click here</u> to learn more about stopping negative self-talk





How can you be compassionate to yourself when you notice negative self-talk starting?

I'd like to remind myself that it's okay to make mistakes and that feedback is an opportunity to learn, not a reflection of my worth. I could say, 'I'm doing my best, and that's enough,' or 'I am allowed to be imperfect and still be valuable.

How could understanding your negative self-talk triggers help you respond differently in the future?

If I know what triggers my negative self-talk, I can prepare myself for those situations by using calming techniques like deep breathing or grounding exercises. I could also practice self-compassion ahead of time, reminding myself that it's normal to feel insecure but that I don't have to believe those thoughts.

PART 3: Develop Coping Strategies

Identify coping strategies that can help you stop your negative self-talk in these situations. To learn more about coping skills you can use, scan the QR code below.

- When you notice negative self-talk, ask yourself if these thoughts are factual or based on assumptions. Look for evidence that supports or contradicts them, and consider alternative, more balanced perspectives.
- Treat yourself with the same kindness and understanding you would offer a friend.
- Replace negative thoughts with positive affirmations that reinforce your strengths and capabilities.
- Make a list of your strengths, skills, and past achievements. Review this list when negative self-talk arises to remind yourself of your worth and capabilities.

- Avoid comparing yourself to others, especially on social media. Focus on your own progress and the positive qualities that make you unique.
- Keep a journal to write down your negative thoughts and analyze them. This practice can help you identify patterns and triggers, making it easier to challenge and change them over time.
- Regularly reflect on the things you're grateful for. Focusing on gratitude can help shift your mindset from negative to positive and remind you of the good in your life.
- Engage in hobbies or activities you love. It can boost your mood and reduce the frequency of negative self-talk.



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What past experiences might have contributed to the development of these negative thoughts?

How do you usually respond when negative self-talk begins?







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<u>Gratitude</u> is more than just a positive emotion; it is a powerful tool that can transform your mental health and overall outlook on life. When practiced consistently, gratitude can help you focus on the good in your life, build resilience, and improve your relationships. This worksheet is designed to guide you through the process of recognizing and appreciating the positive aspects of your daily experiences.

PART 1: Daily Gratitude List

Write down three things you are grateful for each day. (Example page.)

WEEK 1	Gratitude 1	Gratitude 2	Gratitude 3
М	Example: The taste of fresh coffee in the morning.	The kind text my friend sent me.	The relaxing bath I took to unwind.
Т	A productive work meeting where I felt heard.	My cozy blanket keeping me warm while I read.	A surprise call from my mom to check on me.
W			
Т			
F			
S			
S			

PART 2: Weekly Reflection

Reflect on your gratitude entries at the end of each week. Answer the following questions:

Which gratitude entries for this week stood out to you the most and why?

The gratitude entry that stood out the most this week was "taking a quiet walk in the park." It felt so refreshing to be surrounded by nature

and to have a moment of calm away from my usual busy routine. I realized how much these small breaks can help me feel grounded. Another

entry that stood out was "a kind message from a friend." It reminded me that I have a support system and people who genuinely care about

me. Sometimes I get caught up in my own struggles, so being reminded of these connections really lifted my mood and made me feel valued.





WEEK 1	Gratitude 1	Gratitude 2	Gratitude 3
М			
Т			
W			
Т			
F			
S			
S			

Which gratitude entries for this week stood out to you the most and why?

How did practicing gratitude affect your mood and outlook over the week?





WEEK 2	Gratitude 1	Gratitude 2	Gratitude 3
М			
Т			
W			
Т			
F			
S			
S			

Which gratitude entries for this week stood out to you the most and why?

How did practicing gratitude affect your mood and outlook over the week?

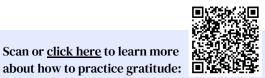




WEEK 3	Gratitude 1	Gratitude 2	Gratitude 3
М			
Т			
W			
Т			
F			
S			
S			

Which gratitude entries for this week stood out to you the most and why?

How did practicing gratitude affect your mood and outlook over the week?



Scan or <u>click here</u> to learn more



WEEK 4	Gratitude 1	Gratitude 2	Gratitude 3
М			
Т			
W			
Т			
F			
S			
S			

Which gratitude entries for this week stood out to you the most and why?

How did practicing gratitude affect your mood and outlook over the week?





PART 3: Monthly Summary

At the end of each month, summarize your gratitude practice.

What patterns do you notice in the things you are grateful for?

The highlights included reconnecting with an old friend over coffee and experiencing a beautiful day at the beach with my

family.

How has your perspective changed since you started practicing gratitude?

I've begun to notice the small, often overlooked joys in my daily life, such as the sound of rain on my window or the smell of

freshly baked bread from the local bakery.

What new gratitude practices would you like to try next month?

I would like to start a gratitude jar where I can add notes about what I'm thankful for each day and review them at the end of

the month.

What challenges did you face in practicing gratitude , and how did you overcome them?

I found it difficult to focus on positive aspects during stressful times, but setting a specific time each day to reflect helped me

stay consistent.

Which gratitudes can you turn into a daily affirmation?

I am grateful for the abundance in my life.

I appreciate the love and support I receive from others.

I am thankful for the opportunities to grow and learn each day.

I am grateful for the beauty of nature around me.





PART 3: Monthly Summary

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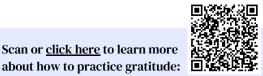
What patterns do you notice in the things you are grateful for?

How has your perspective changed since you started practicing gratitude?

What new gratitude practices would you like to try next month?

What challenges did you face in practicing gratitude, and how did you overcome them?

Which gratitudes do you want to turn into a daily affirmation?



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Additional Resources to Support Your Mental Health Journey

It can be hard to know where to begin looking for support in your mental health journey. Getting a referral from a primary care physician is a reliable first step. Also, sometimes family and friends have experienced similar issues and have professionals they would recommend. The experts at ChoosingTherapy.com are here to help as well, with resources we have reviewed and recommend. Our <u>strict editorial standards</u> ensure our reviews are fair, honest, thorough, and based on firsthand experience.

You Can Trust ChoosingTherapy.com



300+ Companies Reviewed



2,350+ Hours of Firsthand Experience







Best Online Therapy

Online therapy is a convenient way to connect with a licensed therapist to address mental health issues, reduce unhealthy behaviors, develop effective coping skills, and get more satisfaction out of life. Many companies accept insurance and most have next-day appointments available.

Best Online Psychiatry

Online psychiatry providers enable patients to consult with licensed psychiatrists and other mental health professionals. They can evaluate, diagnose, and prescribe medication to help manage mental health issues. Many companies accept insurance and most have next-day appointments available.





Best Mental Health Apps

Apps can be great way to monitor mood, track sleep, journal, and practice healthy coping skills like mindfulness and meditation. There are apps specifically designed to help people reduce the symptoms of depression, anxiety, ADHD, chronic stress, and burnout.

Therapist Directory

When you're looking for a mental health provider with a very particular skill set, level of experience, or personality type, a therapist directory can be very helpful. Using the filters, you can refine your search until you find a therapist who feels like a perfect fit.



