

Swimming  
Walking the dog  
Taking the stairs  
Sex  
Washing the car  
Mowing the lawn



30 MINS A DAY ANY WAY  
THE FIT FOR LIFE PLAN

BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER

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In April 2007, the BHF launched its 30 a Day campaign to encourage people over 50 to invest in their health and well-being by getting active. Just 30 minutes of moderate physical activity at least five times a week can halve the risk of heart disease. Gardening, housework, DIY, playing with children and grandchildren and brisk walking can all contribute to this 30 minutes, helping you to live a longer and more fulfilling life.

For more information, visit [bhf.org.uk/30aday](http://bhf.org.uk/30aday)

# IS THIS FOR ME?

## **If you're aged about 50 or over, this booklet is for you. It aims to help you get more active now... and stay active as you get older.**

The booklet will be especially helpful for you if you're not very active at the moment – and not doing the recommended amount of physical activity – 30 minutes of moderate activity on at least five days a week – and if you're looking for ways of doing more.

### **As you get older, it's especially important to stay active.**

Whether you're still working or retired, whether you're in good health or have a health condition such as heart disease or arthritis, this booklet has lots of useful information to help you get started... and keep going. Maybe you're not yet convinced of the benefits of physical activity. Or maybe you've been meaning to do more activity but something always seems to get in the way. Or perhaps you're already doing some activity but think you should be doing more.

Being active doesn't mean having to join a gym or an exercise class or play a sport, but it could include fitting some activity into your daily routine – even simple things like doing more walking.

You'll be surprised how a small change in your level of physical activity can make a big difference to your health and well-being. So go on – make a start today!

### **What about sex?**

For many people a satisfying sex life is an essential part of their life. It helps maintain their relationship with their partner and it adds to their overall quality of life. For others sex is not that important and choosing to be sexually inactive doesn't have any negative effect on your health.

If you are physically active you will find it easier to enjoy a satisfying sex life. Regular physical activity helps to increase your energy levels which means you are more likely to enjoy many aspects of your social and personal life, including sex.

### **If you are of South Asian origin**

Compared with the rest of the UK population, Indian, Pakistani and Bangladeshi men and women are less likely to be as active as they should be. If you are of South Asian origin, your risk of developing coronary heart disease is significantly higher than that of the rest of the UK population. Regular physical activity is an effective way of lowering that risk.

# SO HOW ACTIVE AM I?

Answer the questions below to help you find out how active you are.

## 1. Walking

During the last week, did you walk briskly enough to make you feel warm and slightly out of breath for more than 15 minutes at a time?

**For example**, it might be walking to the shops or to work, or going out for a walk with family or friends. In the box below, write down how much time you spent walking in this way.

## 2. Other activity

During the last week, have you done any activity other than walking, for more than 15 minutes at a time, that made you feel warm and slightly out of breath?

**For example**, heavy housework, gardening, swimming, dancing, cycling, aerobic classes or squash.

In the box below, write down how much time you spent doing these sorts of activities.

	1. Walking Number of minutes	2. Other activity Number of minutes	
Monday			
Tuesday			
Wednesday			
Thursday			
Friday			
Saturday			TOTAL for the week =
Sunday			
TOTAL			

## So HOW DID YOU DO?

### What was your total for the week?

#### **Less than 150 minutes.**

You are an inactive person. We suggest you make a start on page 6.

#### **150 minutes or more, but you are active on less than five days a week.**

You need to increase your level of activity. We suggest you start at page 10.

#### **150 minutes or more, and you are active on more than five days a week.**

That's good, but you need to keep it up. To help you keep up your level of activity see pages 10 and 16.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

If the average woman over 50 spent 30 minutes walking the dog she would use up the same amount of calories as she would if she spent 11 minutes doing step aerobics.



# WHY IS PHYSICAL ACTIVITY IMPORTANT FOR ME?

**Being active will make a difference to the quality of your life. Once you start you'll soon experience the benefits.**

## **The benefits of physical activity include:**

- looking better
- better body shape and appearance
- feeling better
- more energy
- sleeping better
- helping to reduce stress and anxiety
- helping you to relax more easily
- more self-confidence
- better concentration
- reducing isolation and helping you to stay in touch with other people
- meeting people and making friends
- achievement – learning something new and being successful
- enjoyment – activity can be great fun and something you can do with other people.



## PHYSICAL ACTIVITY TACKLES HEALTH PROBLEMS...

### It helps to manage and control:

- heart disease, including angina
- weight (and body fat)
- high blood pressure
- high cholesterol levels
- type 2 diabetes
- joint and bone problems, such as arthritis.

### And helps prevent illness by reducing the risk of:

- heart disease and stroke
- some cancers (such as colon cancer)
- dementia
- falls and injuries.

### And it also:

- helps you stay independent and mobile in later life
- makes it easier to carry out your everyday activities
- maintains stronger bones and muscles
- improves balance, posture and co-ordination
- maintains joint mobility and suppleness.

As you get older, regular physical activity also helps you to stay in touch with friends and neighbours, and to get out and about – for example, going to the shops or visiting family or friends.

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

If the average woman over 50 spent 30 minutes doing fast ballroom dancing, she would use up the same amount of calories as she would if she spent 13 minutes cycling.

# HOW MUCH SHOULD I BE DOING?

**For general health benefit, adults of all ages should achieve a total of at least 30 minutes moderate activity a day on five or more days of the week.**

'Moderate' activity means any activity that leaves you feeling warm and breathing more heavily than usual. But you don't have to be completely out of breath or work up a sweat.

Also, specific activities that help improve strength, co-ordination and balance are particularly beneficial for us as we get older.

## **Why 30 minutes?**

Any increase in activity will benefit your health, but research shows that 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity on five or more days of the week is the amount needed to keep the lungs, heart, muscles and bones in good working order.

You can split the 30 minutes up into two bouts of 15 minutes, or three bouts of 10 minutes.

## **If 30 minutes a day sounds a lot to you**

If 30 minutes a day seems a lot, start with five minutes at least three times a day and build up gradually to the 30 minute target.

If you can't manage 30 minutes a day – for example, because you're limited by a health condition such as arthritis – don't worry. Any amount of additional activity will make a difference.

## **"I DECIDED I HAD TO DO SOMETHING."**

"I still feel young, but I can see the signs of ageing – thickening waist, saggy skin. I looked at myself in the mirror one day and decided I had to do something. I'm not one for the gym, so I started walking more. I walk whenever I can now, and I feel much better for it." **Rose, 53**





# WHAT SORT OF THINGS SHOULD I BE DOING?

**If you're over 50, you need to do four types of activity to help keep you healthy and well as you get older: activities for stamina, strength, flexibility and balance.**

## STAMINA ACTIVITIES

### Examples:

Brisk walking, gardening, washing the car, aerobics or movement classes, all sorts of dancing, swimming, water aerobics, cycling, or any sports such as badminton.

### Why?

Stamina activities help to keep your lungs, heart and circulation healthy and in good working order.

### How often?

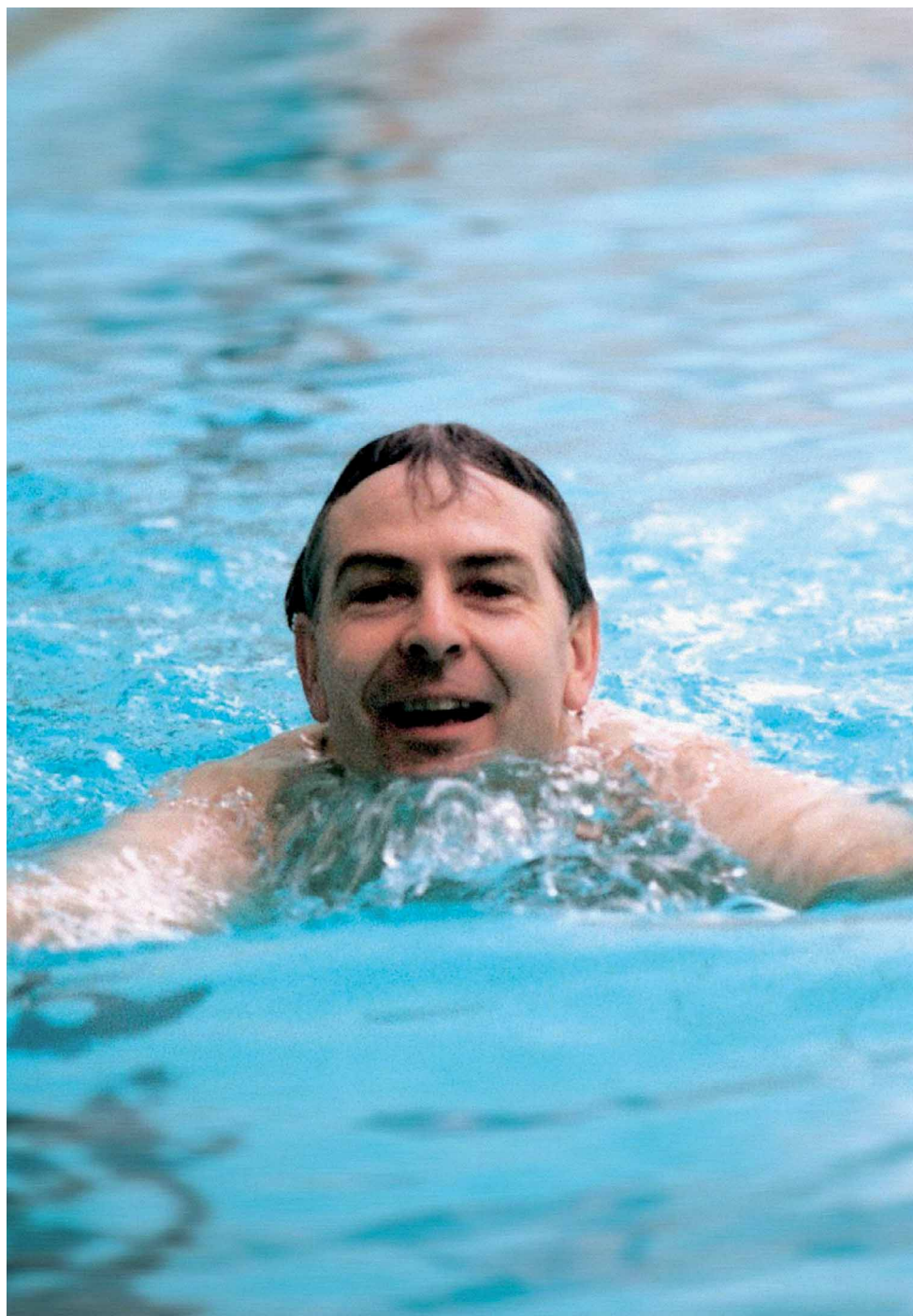
Aim to do 30 minutes of activity from this group on most days. You can do the 30 minutes in three lots of 10 minutes, or two lots of 15 minutes.

If you're not very active at the moment, as little as 10 minutes a day will help – for example, walking briskly to and from the shops.

Only 30% of UK 50-64 year olds meet the recommended minimum level of 30 minutes of moderate physical activity five times a week.

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

If the average man over 50 spent 30 minutes raking the lawn, he would use up the same amount of calories as he would if he did eight minutes cross country running.



## STRENGTH ACTIVITIES

### Examples:

Climbing stairs, walking uphill, lifting and carrying shopping, digging the garden, weight training, pilates, yoga, T'ai Chi, weights or resistance exercises (which you can do at home, in a class or at a gym).

### Why?

Strength activities maintain muscle and bone strength and help us with daily tasks as we get older – things like climbing the stairs, getting out of a chair easily, or opening a jar. Stronger, larger muscles also burn more calories so can help you keep to a healthy weight. Strength activities will also help with good posture and balance. And improved muscle strength and tone will also help with better body shape, improving the way you look and feel.

### How often?

Try to do some strength activities two or three times a week.

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## FLEXIBILITY ACTIVITIES

### Examples:

Gentle bending, reaching and stretching of muscle groups, T'ai Chi, yoga, pilates, dancing, swimming, indoor and outdoor bowls, golf, stretching exercises, or housework such as vacuuming and sweeping.

### Why?

Flexibility activities help you to maintain a full range of movement and to stay independent and move more easily as you get older. Retaining flexibility will mean that, as you get older, you'll still be able to put on your shoes and socks, reach for something on a high shelf, get in and out of the bath, wash your hair, or turn your head easily to look behind when parking the car.

### How often?

Try to do some flexibility exercises for a few minutes every day.

## BALANCE ACTIVITIES

### Examples:

Most activities that involve standing – for example, walking, T'ai Chi, dancing or movement classes.

### Why?

Balance activities improve and maintain your balance, give you confidence in moving and help to prevent accidental falls.

### How often?

Do some balance activities for 10 minutes every day.

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## Extra benefits!

Some activities will help with more than one type of activity. For example, walking and dancing can help with stamina and balance. T'ai Chi can help with both strength and balance. Swimming can help with both stamina and flexibility.

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## Also ...

Try to cut down on the amount of time you spend sitting down. For example, build in activity breaks at work or while you're watching TV. Take time to stretch and move.

### "I WALKED MY WAY TO HEALTH AND HAPPINESS."

"A few years back, I felt awful. I was out of work and suffering from agoraphobia and depression. I knew I had to do something. My doctor referred me to a physical activity adviser. These are specially trained people linked to GP surgeries who help you decide what sort of physical activity might suit you. My adviser suggested I join a local walking scheme and I can honestly say it changed my life. I loved it so much I even became a walk leader! I'm now much fitter, have lots more confidence – and I've made lots of new friends." **June, 60**

# WHAT'S STOPPING YOU?

**There are many reasons why some people aren't as active as others. Some are real reasons and some are excuses, but whatever the reason, we need to find a way of overcoming these obstacles and make a start. Do any of these sound familiar to you?**

## "I DON'T HAVE THE TIME."

Make physical activity your priority and plan to make time for some activity every day, even if it's just for a few minutes. Find a certain time each day to do some activity. For example, stretching whenever you're waiting for the kettle to boil or during a TV break, walking more briskly than usual, or always using the stairs instead of a lift or escalator.

## "I'M TOO TIRED."

You may be surprised that, once you start being more active, you'll have more energy, and feel less tired and more relaxed. If you find that you're very tired, and unable to perform simple exercises, check with your GP that there's no underlying physical reason for this.

## "I'M GETTING TOO OLD."

You're never too old to make a start and you will still feel the benefits, perhaps sooner than you think! Many clubs and groups are organised for people of all ages.

## "I'M NOT OLD ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT THIS YET."

We know that our bodies start to decline physically after the age of 30, and being inactive speeds up that decline. It's never too soon to start investing in your future.

## "I HAVE NO-ONE TO DO IT WITH."

Invite a friend, relative, neighbour or, if you're still working, ask some work colleagues to go for a lunchtime walk with you. If you join a class or group you will meet new people and make new friends. The BHF has a range of fantastic fundraising events all over the UK helping you to get active. Most attract hundreds of participants so you don't have to do it alone.

## "MY HEALTH ISN'T GOOD ENOUGH."

Physical activity can help with most health conditions. Ask your doctor for advice on what sort of activity would help you. There are some more ideas for people with particular health conditions on page 20.

## "IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE."

Walking is free and so are many other lifestyle activities such as walking up and down the stairs several times a day or bending and stretching at home. Find out about local groups and opportunities as some offer discount rates for different age brackets.

## "THERE'S NOTHING TO DO WHERE I LIVE."

If that's the case, be active around your home. And walk to and from local places whenever you can – for example, when you go to the shops, or to a friend's house.

## "I'VE NEVER BEEN THE SPORTY TYPE."

You don't need to be sporty to live an active life. There are many other activities – like gardening, dancing or an exercise to music class. Why not accept a challenge and try something new?

## "I MIGHT INJURE MYSELF."

Whenever you do some activity, start slowly and work at your own pace. There's no need to overdo it. If you take part in moderate activities like walking or swimming, it's unlikely that you'll get injured.

## "I'M TOO EMBARRASSED."

You don't have to go to a gym dressed in sportswear to get active. You could do some brisk walking wearing your normal clothes. You might find it easier if you start by doing some physical activity with a friend.

# GETTING STARTED... AND KEEPING GOING

**Making a start may be a big challenge. Use the Action Plan on the fold out at the back of this booklet to help you make a realistic and personal action plan. Below are some things you can do to help you get started... and keep going:**

## **Choose an activity you enjoy**

We're all more motivated if we're doing something we enjoy.

## **Start small and progress at your own rate**

Don't be over-ambitious. Make sure you set yourself targets that you can easily achieve – things that can be repeated and can become part of your everyday routine.

## **Vary your activities**

This will help to avoid boredom and maintain your interest.

Think of changing the time and place. Or maybe try a new activity.

## **Be social**

Involve a friend, neighbour, relative or 'activity buddy' in your activity routine.

You can support each other and you will have company while you're doing your activity too.

## **Get into the habit**

No matter how small, plan an activity routine for yourself. Plan a time in your day when you will do your activity. Use your diary or a calendar if it helps.

## **Use reminders**

Put a note on your action plan where you will see it – by the front door, on the fridge or by the kettle – to remind you to do some activity.

Put your walking shoes near the door. If you sometimes go swimming or to the gym, keep your bag packed and ready to go.

## **Choose a role model**

Do you have a friend who is already regularly active?

Talk to them and use them as a role model and to support you.



# MAKING IT SAFE AND ENJOYABLE

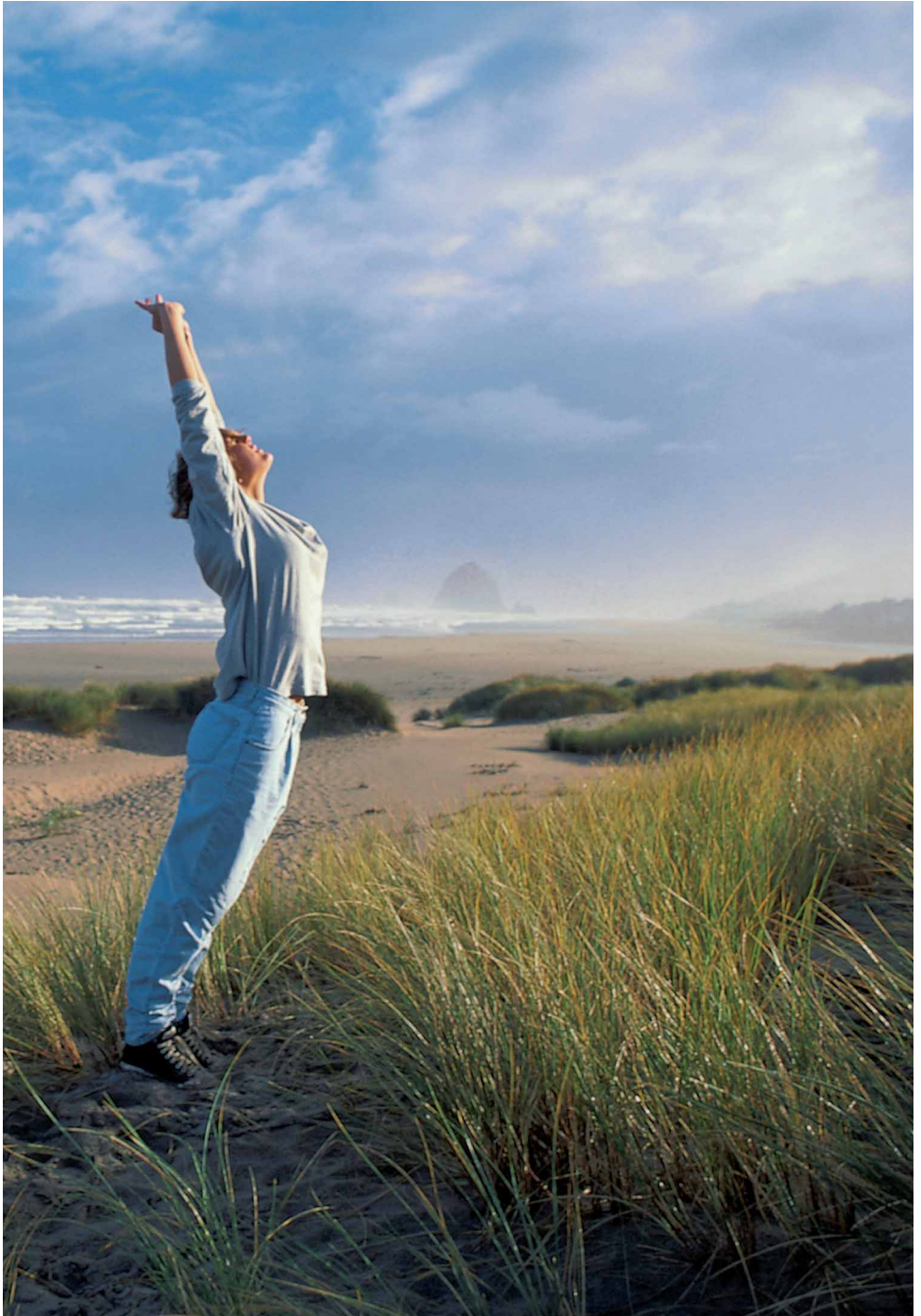
**You will want to make sure that your first steps into activity are safe and enjoyable. Here's how you can achieve this.**

- build up your activity level gradually – both the amount of time you spend doing the activity and the intensity. Start off slowly and progress gradually at your own pace. There's no rush
- wear comfortable clothes and supportive shoes
- when you're doing any activity, start slowly for the first few minutes and build up gradually. At the end, spend some time slowing down gradually
- do some stretching exercises after your activity to help avoid muscle soreness and injury
- if you have any condition you are taking medicine for and are not sure whether this will be affected by activity, or if you have any concerns about your health or fitness, tell your GP about the activities you're planning to do
- remember to drink water before, during and after your activity. Don't wait until you're thirsty
- don't take part in physical activity if you have a high temperature or feel unwell
- stop exercising if you feel pain or feel dizzy, or if you feel unwell or very tired
- learn to listen to your body. If you feel discomfort or pain when being active, stop and get advice from your doctor
- avoid walking alone at night, and keep to well populated and well lit areas
- if you're cycling, wear a helmet and reflective clothing. Use lights if you're cycling at night.

**Regular moderate activity is better than doing occasional bursts of vigorous activity, or very long bouts of activity.**

## DID YOU KNOW THAT...

If the average man over 50 spent 30 minutes washing the car, he would use up the same amount of calories as he would if he spent 10 minutes playing competitive football.



# HOW AM I DOING SO FAR?

After a few weeks, you may have had some successes as well as some difficulties. Ask yourself, “How am I doing so far?” Why not revisit your personal goals and targets. If you have achieved them, well done – now’s the time to set some new targets. If not, ask yourself why, and look at what you can do to get back on track. Here are some common examples:

Common disruptions	How to get back
<b>After a holiday or illness</b>	Take it easy when you begin again, starting with small amounts of activity and building up.
<b>Made a start but not active every day?</b>	See if your activity can become a routine part of your life.
<b>Enjoying regular walking?</b>	Try adding some strength and flexibility activities.
<b>It all seems like too much effort</b>	Are you trying to do too much? Set some new short-term goals and reward yourself when you achieve them.
<b>Family and home responsibilities are getting in the way</b>	Plan how to deal with your other commitments but also plan to do some different activities that you can fit around them.
<b>You find it’s no fun doing things by yourself</b>	Invite a friend to join you so you can support each other. Or join a group or club.
<b>Long spells of bad weather make outdoor activities unpleasant</b>	Switch to indoor activities at home or at an indoor leisure centre until the weather gets better.

# WHAT IF I HAVE...?

**Most health problems can be helped by regular physical activity, but if you have a health problem, check with your doctor about the amount and type of activity that is suitable for you.**

## **If you have...**

### **Heart problems or diabetes**

Regular, moderate stamina activities like walking, swimming and cycling are particularly important. You should only do strength training (such as weight training) under supervision. If you have angina you should avoid doing strength exercises.

### **Cancer**

Your ability to be active will depend on your condition and the treatment you are having. Your doctor or specialist can advise you about what you can do.

### **Arthritis**

Swimming or other water exercises in a warm pool, and hydrotherapy, are all good activities.

### **Osteoporosis**

Weight-bearing activities (such as walking or dancing) and strength training can help to make bones stronger and support joints.

### **Foot problems**

Ask your chiropodist or podiatrist for advice on suitable activities and appropriate foot care.

### **Asthma and other lung problems**

Swimming, walking and cycling are less likely to bring on an asthma attack, especially if your asthma is controlled. If you have other lung problems such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, ask your doctor what activities might be suitable for you.

### **Mental health problems**

Daily moderate activities such as walking, cycling and swimming as well as strength training exercises two or three times a week are beneficial for your mental wellbeing. Regular exercise is a good way to deal with stress and anxiety.

### **Mobility problems**

There is a range of chair-based activities (for example, exercises or movement to music that you do while sitting down) or water activities at your local swimming pool that may be suitable for you.



# HEALTHY EATING

**To help you keep to a healthy weight – or to lose weight if you're overweight – you need to be physically active and eat a healthy diet. This will help to keep your heart healthy too.**

- aim to eat at least five portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables each day
- cut down on fat, especially saturated fat. Saturated fats are found, for example, in dairy foods such as butter, hard cheese and cream; in fatty meats and meat products; in biscuits and cakes; and in coconut oil and palm oil
- aim to eat two portions of fish a week. One of the portions should be oily fish – such as herring, mackerel, pilchards, salmon or trout
- don't add salt to your food, and cut down on processed foods that contain a lot of salt
- if you drink alcohol, drink in moderation.

**For more information on healthy eating, see our booklet *Food should be fun... and healthy!*, or if you want to lose weight see our booklets *So you want to lose weight... for good*, and *Taking control of your weight*.**



## FOR MORE INFORMATION

### TO FIND OUT ABOUT ACTIVITIES IN YOUR LOCAL AREA

- ask at your local library or local council leisure department. They may have a directory or an online database
- contact your local Age Concern or Ageing Well project
- **www.activeplaces.com** lists over 50,000 places in England where you can be active.

### TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY GO TO:

- Amateur Swimming Association and Everyday Swim **www.britishswimming.org**
- British Heart Foundation **bhf.org.uk**
- British Trust for Conservation Volunteers **www.btcv.org/greengym** (for information on outdoor conservation activities)
- the Countryside Council for Wales **www.ccw.gov.uk**
- Cycling **www.bikeforall.net**
- Paths to Health **www.pathstohealth.org.uk**
- Ramblers Association **www.ramblers.org.uk**
- Sustrans **www.sustrans.org.uk**
- Walking the Way to Health **www.whi.org.uk**

“Your body slows down over time and as long as you are OK with the fact that you can’t run as fast as you could when you were younger then you will be fine. You have to still enjoy it. That’s the key.” **John, 55**

### DID YOU KNOW THAT...

If the average man over 50 spent 30 minutes trimming the shrubs he would use up the same amount of calories as he would if he spent nine minutes cross country running.

## OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

### Arthritis Care

[www.arthritiscare.org.uk](http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk)

Helpline 0808 860 4050

### BBC Health

[www.bbc.co.uk/health](http://www.bbc.co.uk/health)

(See the *Health over 50* section.)

### British Nutrition Foundation

[www.nutrition.org.uk](http://www.nutrition.org.uk)

### Diabetes UK

[www.diabetes.org.uk](http://www.diabetes.org.uk)

Careline 0845 120 2960

### Food Standards Agency

[www.food.gov.uk](http://www.food.gov.uk)

### National Asthma Campaign

[www.asthma.org.uk](http://www.asthma.org.uk)

08457 010203

### National Osteoporosis Society

[www.nos.org.uk](http://www.nos.org.uk)

Helpline 0845 450 0230

### The Stroke Association

[www.stroke.org.uk](http://www.stroke.org.uk)

Helpline 0845 303 3100

### 50 + Health

[www.50plushealth.co.uk](http://www.50plushealth.co.uk)

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## BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION (BHF) CONTACTS

### Heart Help Line **0300 330 3311** (A local-rate number)

For information and support on anything heart-related.

### Ways to get involved

There are lots of different ways to support the BHF:

- For more information about the **BHF credit card**, call **0800 028 2440** or visit **[bhf.org.uk/card](http://bhf.org.uk/card)**
- To find out how you can get involved in BHF events such as sponsored bike rides and walks, call **0845 130 8663** or visit **[bhf.org.uk/events](http://bhf.org.uk/events)**
- For more information on volunteering for the BHF, call **0845 130 8663** or visit **[bhf.org.uk/volunteer](http://bhf.org.uk/volunteer)**

### Have your say

We would welcome your comments to help us produce the best information for you.

Why not let us know what you think? Contact us through our website at

**[bhf.org.uk/contact](http://bhf.org.uk/contact)**. Or, write to us at the address on the back cover.





# HOW YOU CAN HELP US

## We urgently need your help to keep more hearts beating

As a charity we rely on the generosity of people like you to fund our life-saving work. Thousands of people with heart disease turn to us for help every year and even more will need us in the future. We want to be there for them. Please donate today and together we can beat heart disease. Thank you.

**Please fill in your details below and then complete the form overleaf:**

Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/Other)

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email\*

\*We would like to keep in touch with you, to let you know your support has made a difference. By supplying your email address you agree that the BHF **may** use this to contact you about our work.

07BS01 CC01CC

## Please make a donation today.

To make an instant donation, please call our donation hotline on **0300 330 3322** (Monday – Friday 9am to 5pm) with your credit card details, or visit **bhf.org.uk/donate**, or complete both sides of this form and return to the address shown overleaf.

**Please accept my gift of:**

£15

£20

Other: £

I enclose a cheque or postal order. (Please make it payable to the British Heart Foundation.)

or please debit the above sum from my:

CAF Charity Card

MasterCard

Visa/Delta

Maestro

Name on card

Card number

Valid from

Expiry date

Issue no.

(Maestro only)

Security code\*

\* Last 3 digits found on the reverse of your card. **We cannot process your donation without it.**

Signature

Date

Please cut off and return this completed form to: **Supporter Services Department, British Heart Foundation, Freepost RRZJ-LCHX-EKCR, Greater London House, 180 Hampstead Road, London NW1 7AW.**

**Thank you.**

*giftaid it*

**Are you a taxpayer?**

If you are a UK taxpayer, please tick the **first box** so we can **claim back up to 28p for every £1** you give, at **no extra cost to you.**

GA1 **Yes**, I am a UK taxpayer and would like the BHF to reclaim the tax on any of the donations I have made in the last six years and any future donations I may make.\* Date

GA2 **No**, I am not a UK taxpayer.

\* For the BHF to reclaim the tax on your donation you must be paying at least 28p in UK income tax or capital gains tax on every £1 you donate. We cannot process your Gift Aid declaration without your name and address.

**Your personal information**

The BHF will use your personal information for administration purposes and to provide you with services, products and any information you have requested.

S Please tick here if you **do not** wish the BHF to contact you by phone or mail about our work.

MP02 We may want to share information with other organisations that are in partnership with the BHF and who support our aims and objectives. Please tick the box if you would **prefer us not** to share your details.

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# GETTING STARTED – MAKING AN ACTION PLAN

**Making a start is the most important step you can take. Use these pages to make a realistic and personal action plan based on the information in this booklet.**

## 1. CHOOSE YOUR ACTIVITIES

Think about the four groups of activities on pages 10-13. Choose some activities that you will enjoy, want to do and will fit into your lifestyle.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. SET A DATE TO MAKE A START

You might want to start straight away. Or you could plan to start in a few days or next week.

**I will start on**

## 3. CHOOSE A TIME

Choose a time you can remember, that fits into the rest of your day and could become part of your routine – either morning, afternoon or evening.

**My time for activity will be**

## 4. WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED TO DO BEFORE YOU START?

**For example**

- Do you need to find out some information – perhaps from your local library or leisure centre?
- Would talking to a friend or your partner be helpful?
- Do you need to check anything with your doctor?

This is what I need to do

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## 5. SET SOME PERSONAL GOALS OR TARGETS

Setting a personal goal is another important key to success, so ask yourself – what do you want to achieve? Set short-term goals as well as a long-term goal, write them below.

**Make your goals specific.** Instead of saying “I want to become more active,” set yourself a specific goal – for example “I will walk for 15 minutes at lunchtime and another 15 minutes in the evening.”

**Be realistic.** If you’re not very active at the moment, don’t set yourself a goal of walking for an hour a day on five days a week, as that’s a very big change. Set yourself a realistic goal that you can achieve, and then move on.

**Think about what simple, achievable but important changes you could make.**

For example – walking some or all of the way to work, the pub, the shops or a friend’s house instead of taking the bus or driving, or always using the stairs instead of the lift.

**Or, are there any specific opportunities that you could take advantage of?** For example – walking to the newsagent’s every day, or taking your grandchildren to the park. Or how about deciding to join a walking group or learning to swim?

**My long-term personal goal is to**

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**My short-term goals are to**

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Once you’ve set your goals, use the *Weekly activity diary* overleaf to record your progress.

## NEED SOME MORE IDEAS?

Here are some ideas for short-term goals, to get you started and help you with your action plan.

**I will** walk for 10 minutes each day.

**I am going to** spend five minutes every day doing some stretching.

**I am going to** spend 10 minutes a day dancing to my favourite music.

**I will** always use the stairs instead of the lift or escalator.

**I will** wash and wax the car myself.

**I am going to** get off the bus a few stops earlier and walk.

**I am going to** find a friend to be active with.

**I will** take up my interest in nature walks.

**I will** learn to swim.

## WHAT WILL HELP MAKE IT EASIER TO GET STARTED?

- talk to your friends about the things they do to stay active
- visit a local leisure centre to find out what's on offer there
- find out about group activities that might interest you and are nearby – for example, local walking groups, evening classes, T'ai Chi or dancing
- try new things and learn new skills that can get you moving
- talk to your doctor or a health professional about making a start.

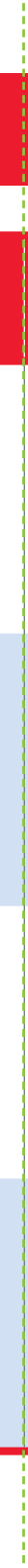


# WEEKLY ACTIVITY DIARY

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Morning			
Lunchtime			
Afternoon			
Evening			



Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
[Shaded]	[Shaded]	[Shaded]	[Shaded]
[Shaded]	[Shaded]	[Shaded]	[Shaded]



# BEATING HEART DISEASE TOGETHER



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