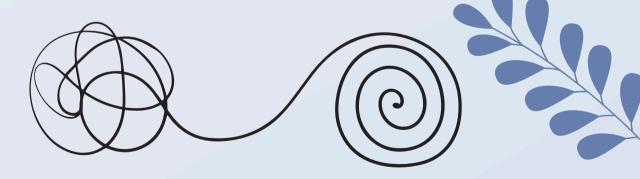
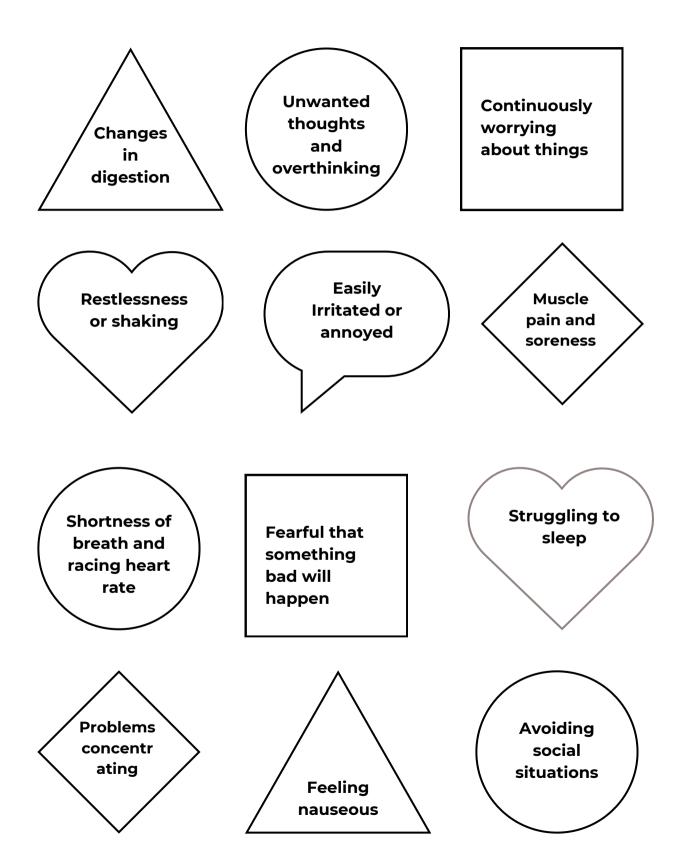


# ANXIETY COPING SKILL FLASHCARD



#### **This Book Belongs To**

### **Signs of Anxiety**



## Challenging Negative Thoughts

AM I MAKING ASSUMPTIONS?

IS THERE ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT IT?

ARE THERE ANY OTHER POSSIBLE OUTCOMES?

**IS THERE EVIDENCE FOR THIS WORRY?** 

WHAT ADVICE WOULD I GIVE TO A FRIEND?

IS THIS WORRY IN OR OUT OF MY CONTROL?

#### **Growth Mindset**



#### **FIXED MINDSET**

I got it all wrong

I made a mistake

I'm not good at this.

This is not good enough.

This is too hard.

I don't understand this

This is impossible

I can't do this.



#### **GROWTH MINDSET**

I'm on the right track.

Mistakes help me learn.

How else can I do this?

I Know I can improve this.

This is going to take effort.

I need more practice

I love a challenge.

Utilize some strategies.

### 5-4-3-2-1 Grounding Technique

Take a deep breath and identify

### 5 Things you can SEE 4 Things you can FEEL 3 Things you can HEAR 2 Things you can SMELL 1 Thing you can TASTE



### Anxiety

More than just worrying

#### What is Anxiety?

A worry is a feeling of unease, fear or nervousness when you start to think about unpleasant things. It is a type of thinking, often about something that might happen in the future and it leaves you feeling frightened, nervous or anxious. Some people call worries, anxiety or stress. Everybody experiences worries, however if you are starting to feel worried more often or if you can't seem to stop thinking about your worry and it is leaving you feeling upset, you may be experiencing anxiety. The distress from anxiety often interferes with a person's ability to lead a normal life. For example, they often feel very nervous about the potential dangers of what could or might happen in certain situations, leaving them feeling constant fear, frozen with fear. stressed and overwhelmed. Anxiety disorders include specific phobias, panic disorder, social anxiety disorder and generalized anxiety disorder.

# MY ANXIETY DOES NOT DEFINE ME

### **Get Your Daily D.O.S.E**

#### DOPAMINE

Creating art Setting goals Having gratitude Self care Listening to music Finishing a task

#### OXYTOCIN

Stroking a pet Giving compliments Holding hands Time with friends and family Having a massage Long hugs Sharing feelings

#### SEROTONIN

Enjoying the outdoors Aerobic exercise Meditating Taking a cold shower Gardening Going for a walk in nature

#### **ENDORPHINS**

Exercise Laughing with friends Watching comedy Creating music or art Using aromatherapy oils Having sex

#### **Body Awareness**



This body awareness grounding technique will bring you into the present moment by encouraging you to focus on the feelings and sensations in your body.

Sit comfortably with both feet flat on the floor. Take five deep breaths through your nose, and exhale through your mouth.

First, wiggle your toes. Then, curl and uncurl your toes a few times. Take some time to feel the sensations in your feet. Stamp your feet on the ground a few times. Notice how your feet and legs feel as you make contact with the ground.

Next, clench your hands into fists, then release the tension. Repeat this five times. Press your palms hard together and try to hold this pose for twenty seconds. Focus on the feeling of tension this creates in your arms and hands. Rub your palms together briskly, Notice the sound and the feeling of warmth.

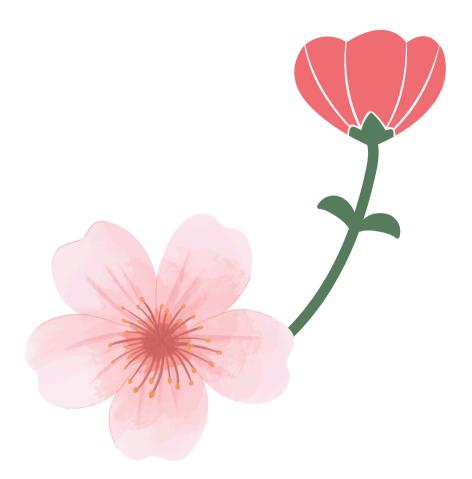
Reach your arms over your head and reach for the sky. Enjoy this stretch for a count of five then let your arms drop down and relax at your sides. Take five more deep breaths and notice the feeling of calm that now exists in your body.

### Self Kindness



#### Treat yourself the same as you would treat a very good friend. Talk to yourself with Kind, compassionate phrases such as:

"This is tough but you're strong and can cope with this." "You're having a rough time, but you'll make it through." "You're trying hard, and you're doing your best."



Imagine you are holding a flower.

Breathe slowly in through your nose and smell the fresh air.

Breathe out slowly through your mouth and watch the petals fly off the flower.

### Self-Care Check-In

How am I feeling?

What are my needs right now?

What makes me grateful today?

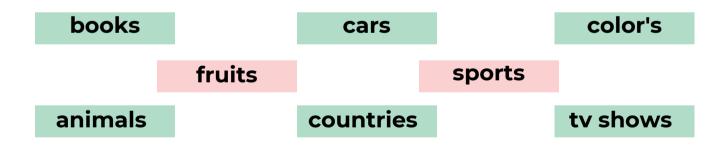
What do I want to accomplish today?

What actions can I take to feel good?

What negativity can I cut from my day?



Choose one of the categories below and name as many items in that category as you can.



### **Coping With Anxiety**

I allow this feeling to be here, Knowing that it will pass My anxiety is not dangerous- it's just uncomfortable

My anxiety is a habit that I can change

I am going to stay focused in the present

My anxiety is not the boss; I am in control This feeling is uncomfortable but normal

I can get through difficult times; I've done it before This feeling is a reminder to slow down and breathe

### **Connect With Other People**

Creating relationships with other people is essential for your mental wellbeing and coping with anxiety. A good relationship provides emotional support and helps you to build a sense of belonging and self-worth



#### **Mental Health Check in**

How are you feeling today, physically and mentally? Is there anything worrying you today? How have you been sleeping? What makes you feel grateful today? What exercise have you done recently? What is your water intake and what was your last meal? What have you done that made you feel good today? What can you do today that's good for you? What are you looking forward to today? What is something you'll do with a friend today?



#### **CALL A FRIEND**

When you're feeling anxious or overwhelmed, reach out to a friend and have a chat. Call someone who you trust and who understands and knows you well. Choose someone who you know will lift your spirits and make you feel better. Talking to someone you trust will help you to see your issue with a new perspective and works as a great grounding technique.

#### **Anxiety Behaviour Changes**

Worrying

excessively

about many

things

Difficulty taking care of yourself

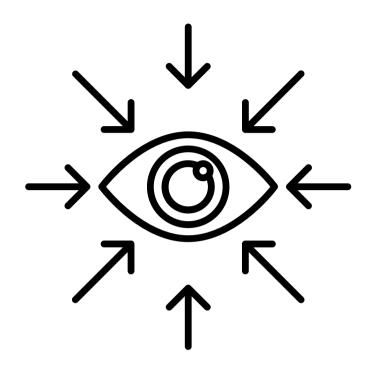
> Finding it difficult to maintain relationships

Compulsive behaviour, like checking things constantly

Avoiding places and people that cause anxiety

Not being able to enjoy leisure time.

# Visualization



Visualization helps to focus your mind on calming and relaxing Images. First, create a space free from distractions. Sit or lie in a comfortable position,

imagine a beautiful, warm sandy beach. Hear the sounds of gentle. turquoise waves lapping at the shore. Feel the warmth of the white, soft sand under your feet. Take slow, deep breaths in time with the waves and feel the tension in your body drift away

Remember that you can always return to this beautiful place whenever you need to.

# Coping With a Panic Attack

focus and slow down your breathing acknowledge that this is a panic attack - not real danger

move to a quiet, peaceful place

relax the body section by section

use a mantra to calm your mind

check your thoughts

ground yourself in your Surroundings

Know that the panic attack will Subside

#### Warm Water



Use warm water to help you relax. You can take a bath, relax in a hot tub, go for a swim, or enjoy a long, relaxing shower. Whatever you choose to do, the warm water will help you to de-stress and relax.

### **Countdown To Calm**



This breathing exercise helps you to focus on relaxation, making it easier for you to cope with your anxious thoughts.

Close your eyes or gaze down softly. Take a deep breath and exhale slowly. As you exhale, repeat a mantra such as "This too shall pass." For the next ten breaths, slowly count down from 10 to 1 on each exhale. As you breathe, visualize each part of your body relaxing.

#### **Breath Focus**

#### when your breathing is focused, deep and slow, it can help reduce stress and anxiety.



Sit or lay in a comfortable position.

Notice how it feels when you inhale and exhale. Notice where you feel tension in your body. Take a slow, deep breath through your nose. Feel your belly expanding.

As you exhale, choose a word to focus on and say it out loud.

For example, use words like "peace" and "calm". Imagine your inhale washing over you like a gentle wave.

Imagine your exhale carrying negative energy away from you. If you get distracted, gently bring your attention back to your breath. use this technique for 10 minutes each day.

### **Finger Breathing**



Inhale as you move from the base of your thumb to the tip, and exhale as you move from the tip of your thumb to the base on the other side. Repeat this around your entire hand.

# Go Outside



Go outside.

Sit or stand and breathe the fresh air.

Take a walk and notice nature all around you.

Look at the sky and the clouds and notice the colors.

Feel the warmth or cool of the air around you.

### **Using a Weighted Blanket**



Try resting under a weighted blanket. The pressure from the blanket helps relax your autonomic nervous system, reducing anxiety symptoms. Additionally, the deep pressure stimulation can boost the release of serotonin, a neurotransmitter that promotes feelings of well-being.



### Symptoms Of a Panic Attack

If you experience intense anxiety and fear suddenly, it might be a panic attack. Symptoms of a panic attack can include any of the following:

feeling faint, dizzy or light-headed a pounding, racing heartbeat feeling very hot or very cold a pain in your chest or abdomen feeling sick sweating, trembling or shaking struggling to breathe a tingling in your fingers or lips feeling like you legs are shaky or turning to jelly feeling that you're losing control feeling disconnected from your mind, body and surroundings A panic attack usually lasts 5 to 30 minutes. They can be very frightening, but they're not dangerous and should not harm you.

### Lazy-8 Breathing



Imagine an 8 on its side.

Start in the middle and trace up the right part of the 8 while you inhale. When you reach the middle, exhale as you trace the left part of the 8

### **Spend Some Time With Your pet**



If you have a pet, spend some time sitting with them. Look at their markings and patterns and notice how it feels when you hold them. Think about all the reasons why you love your pet.

# If you're feeling overwhelmed and anxious then...





#### **STOP**

Stop what you are doing and try not to react. Your emotions can make you react without thinking so freeze and stay in control.



#### TAKE A STEP BACK

Step back from the situation. Take a deep breath and try to let go.



#### OBSERVE

Take some time to notice what is going on around you. Notice your thoughts and feelings.



#### PROCEED MINDFULLY

Consider your thoughts and feelings and the situation around you. Identify the actions that will make it better or worse.

# When you're feeling overwhelmed, remember

to



RECOGNIZE

Recognize what is going on

#### ALLOW

Allow experience just happen

#### INVESTIGATE

Investigate with Kindness



#### NATURAL

Natural awareness away from the experience

#### If you're feeling overwhelmed, grab a mindfulness SNACK











K

**STOP** 

Stop

whatever

you're doing

NOTICE

Notice what is happening

around you

ACCEPT

Accept it for what it is without judgement CURIOUS

questions

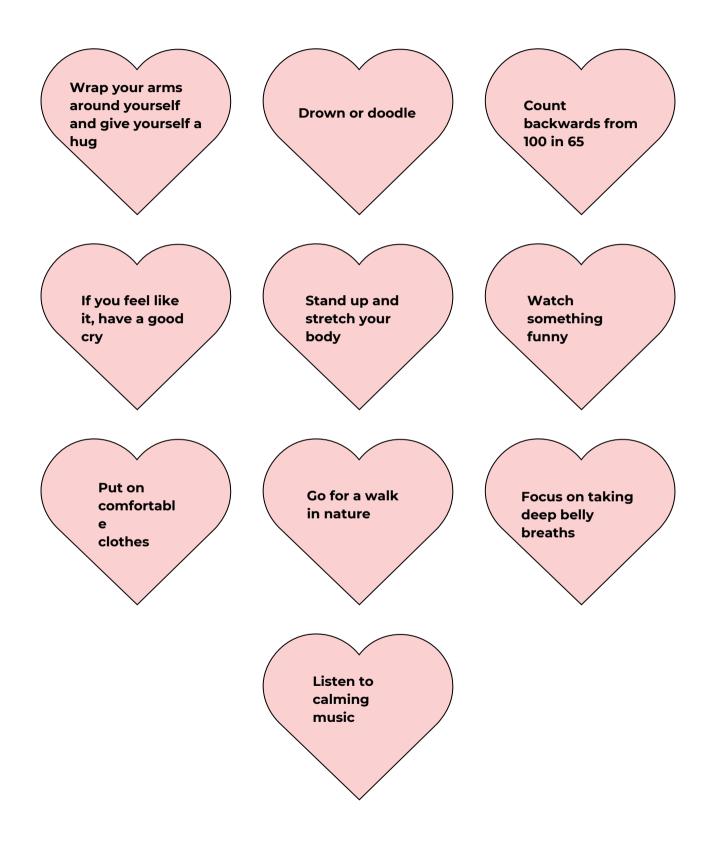
about it

**ASK yourself** 

**KINDNESS** 

Respond to it only with Kindness

### **How To Soothe Yourself**



### **Calming Skills**

#### **Breathe**

#### **Grounding Techniques**

#### Mindfulness

#### Affirmations

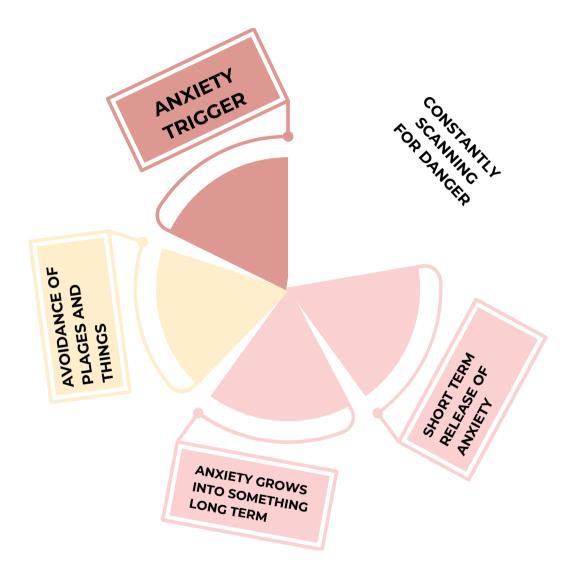
#### **Challenge Negative Thoughts**

#### Visualization

Yoga

#### Connection

### Understanding The Anxiety Cycle



"You need to understand the cycle in order to break the cycle"

#### Self Care Menu



Deep belly breathing5 Min
Write 3 things for which you're grateful5 Min
Take a warm bath or shower5 Min
Have some quiet time10 Min
Tidy your space10 Min
Get active dance, run, walk20 Min
Do something creative30 Min
Stretch or do yoga30 Min
Listen to music5 Min
Put your phone down60 Min
Take a nap60 Min
Go outside for fresh air60 Min

### **Progressive Muscle Relaxation**

Progressive muscle involves tensing and relaxing all the major body muscle groups. Throughout the exercise, keep your breathing deep and regular.

R E L A X FACE: Raise your eyebrows as high as possible and wrinkle your forehead. Squeeze your eyes shut tight, clench your teeth together and squash your whole face up.

NECK: Place your chin down toward your chest and turn your head slowly to the right and then to the left

CHEST: Take a deep breath, expanding your chest fully, hold for a count of 5, then exhale slowly.

SHOULDERS: Shrug your shoulders and hold for a count of 5. Then, slowly pull your shoulders back and then push your shoulders forward.

UPPER BACK: Arch your back and release. ABDOMEN: Pull in your tummy then push it out.

HANDS & ARMS: Clench both fists, squeezing them as hard as you can. Tighten both biceps and hold this tension for several seconds. Release the tension and feel your arms relax.

LEGS: Raise your right leg, tense your thigh and calf muscles, and pull your toes back toward you. Then, repeat for the left leg

FEET: Point your toes then pull your toes toward you as far as possible.

#### **Self Care Ideas**

#### BODY

Breathe deeply and puff out your chest and belly. Put on some music and dance. Do some yoga and stretch. Run or wak for a few minutes. Look lovingly at yourself naked.

#### MIN

unplug for an hour. Go cloudwatching. Lie on your back, relax, and watch the sky. Schedule in five minutes of play. Do a oneminute meditation with awareness of your thoughts and feelings.

#### SOUL

Find five unexpected beautiful things on your way to work. Check in with your emotions. Sit quietly and name what you're feeling Write out your thoughts in a journal Write down 5 things you're grateful for. Make a connection and have a conversation with someone new.

#### Ideas



#### Notes

