



Improving the Moment

A way to remember these skills is the word **IMPROVE**.

With Imagery:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imagine very relaxing scenes. | <input type="checkbox"/> Imagine hurtful emotions draining out of you like water out of a pipe. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imagine a secret room within yourself. Furnish it the way you like. Close and lock the door on anything that can hurt you. | <input type="checkbox"/> Remember a happy time and imagine yourself in it again; play out the time in your mind again. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Imagine everything going well. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Make up a calming fantasy world. | |

With Meaning:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Find purpose or meaning in a painful situation. | <input type="checkbox"/> Remember, listen to, or read about spiritual values. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus on whatever positive aspects of a painful situation you can find. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat these positive aspects in your mind. | |

With Prayer:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Open your heart to a supreme being, God, or your own Wise Mind. | <input type="checkbox"/> Turn things over to God or a higher being. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ask for strength to bear the pain. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

With Relaxing actions:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Take a hot bath or sit in a hot tub. | <input type="checkbox"/> Breathe deeply. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drink hot milk. | <input type="checkbox"/> Change your facial expression. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Massage your neck and scalp. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Practice yoga or other stretching. | |

With One thing in the moment:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Focus your entire attention on just what you are doing. | <input type="checkbox"/> Focus your entire attention on the physical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Keep yourself in the moment. | <input type="checkbox"/> Listen to a sensory awareness recording (or use Distress Tolerance Handout 9a) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Put your mind in the present. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

With a brief Vacation:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Give yourself a brief vacation. | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a blanket to the park and sit on it for a whole afternoon. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Get in bed; pull the covers up over your head. | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a 1-hour breather from hard work. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Go to the beach or the woods for the day. | <input type="checkbox"/> Take a brief vacation from responsibility. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Get a magazine and read it with chocolates. | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Turn off your phone for a day. | |

With self-Encouragement and rethinking the situation:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerlead yourself: “You go, girl!” “You da man!” | <input type="checkbox"/> “This too shall pass.” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> “I will make it out of this.” | <input type="checkbox"/> “I will be OK.” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> “I’m doing the best I can.” | <input type="checkbox"/> “It won’t last forever.” |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repeat over and over: “I can stand it.” | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

List (and then practice) rethoughts that are particularly important in your crisis situations (e.g., “The fact that he did not pick me up doesn’t mean he doesn’t love me”):

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|

From *DBT Skills Training Handouts and Worksheets, Second Edition* by Marsha M. Linehan. Copyright 2015 by Marsha M. Linehan. Permission to photocopy this handout is granted to purchasers of this book for personal use only (see copyright page for details).