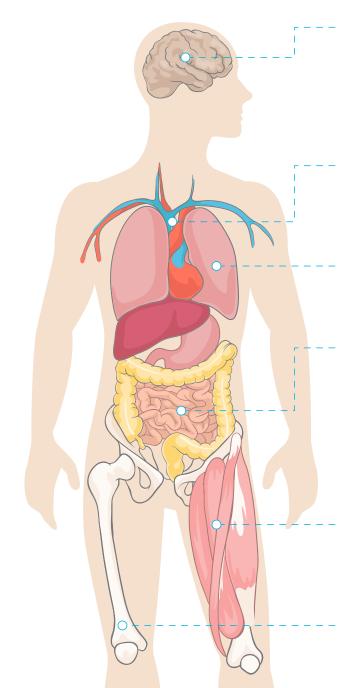
HOW TO STAY IN SHAPE WHEN YOU'RE BUSY

Work trips? Holidays? In hectic times, exercise routines crash. But with 10 minutes a day and virtually no equipment, you can maintain your fitness until you're back in the game.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY OFFERS A LONG LIST OF AMAZING BENEFITS



BRAIN

- Less susceptible to stroke
- Increased neural pathway conductivity
- Improved neuroplasticity
- Improved mood and sleep
- Improved executive function

VEINS/ARTERIES

- Increased elasticity
- Improved circulation
- Improved blood pressure

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM

- Increased gas exchange in lungs
- Increased oxygen in the bloodstream

METABOLISM

- Increased mitochondrial density
- Improved enzymatic pathways
- More efficient energy production
- Improved insulin sensitivity
- Improved nutrient uptake
- Decreased fat storage
- Higher resting metabolic rate

MUSCLES

- Improved strength and coordination
- Bigger, more numerous muscle fibers
- Larger, toned muscles

SKELETON

Increased bone density and strength

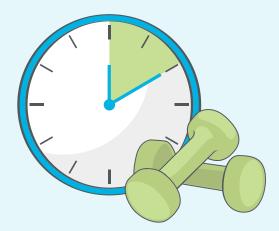
The more consistently you work out, the more pronounced and long-lasting the benefits. But if you suddenly become sedentary, the benefits start reversing immediately.

STRESS CAN MAKE YOU LOSE CONDITIONING FASTER.

MENTAL/EMOTIONAL STRESS INCREASED BREATHING RATE INCREASED OXYGEN UPTAKE AND CO2 CLEARANCE **DECREASED CO2 IN THE BODY REDUCED OXYGEN TRANSFER TO MUSCLE CELLS ALTERED ENERGY PRODUCTION** IN MUSCLES **REDUCED ATP (ENERGY) AVAILABILITY IN MUSCLES** IMPAIRED ABILITY TO RELAX AND **LENGTHEN MUSCLES** TIGHTNESS AND STIFFNESS (ESPE-**CIALLY IN THOSE AFFECTED BY** STRESS, LIKE THE NECK AND LOWER **BACK) AND FATIGUE**

SIMPLE, DO-ANYWHERE WORKOUT

For those times when you just can't manage your normal exercise routine, use this minimalist 10-minute workout to stay in shape.



- **1. Move through each exercise in sequence.**
- 2. Do 5 reps of each exercise.
- **3. Don't rest between exercises.**
- 4. Rest 1-2 minutes at the end of the circuit.
- 5. Repeat for a total of 2-4 circuits.

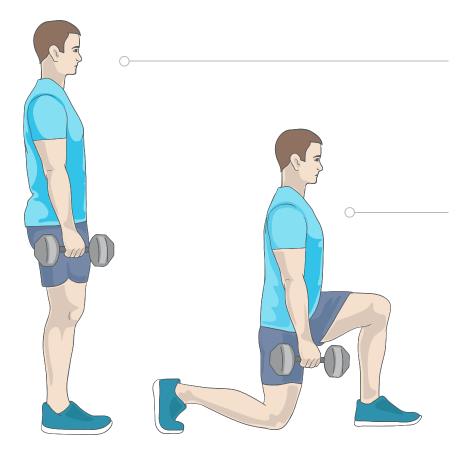
BEAR CRAWL

Starting on all fours, push down with toes to bring knees off floor.

Keeping pelvis centered, "crawl" with right arm and left leg moving forward together, and vice versa. 10 seconds = 1 rep.



REVERSE LUNGE



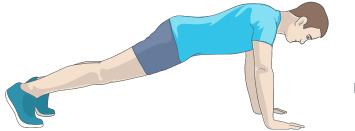
Stand with feet shoulder-width apart, a dumbbell in each hand.

With chest high, abs engaged, and lower back neutral, step right foot back. Keep weight on forward heel and hips squared as you lower right knee until it's just off the floor and slightly behind your hip.

Drive weight into forward heel to return to start. Complete set for right leg, then repeat on the left.

PUSH-UP

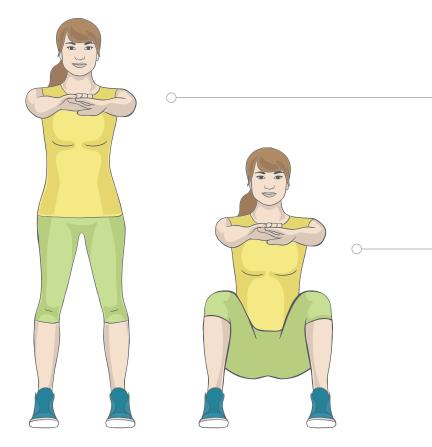
Start in "plank" position, hands directly under shoulders and fingers forward. Maintaining a straight line from head to heel, keep elbows in as you bend them to lower your body as far as you can without shoulders popping forward.



Res Res

Squeeze shoulder blades together and down toward glutes as you lower, then allow them to spread fully apart at the top. Keep abs tight, tailbone tucked under and shoulders down away from ears.

SQUAT



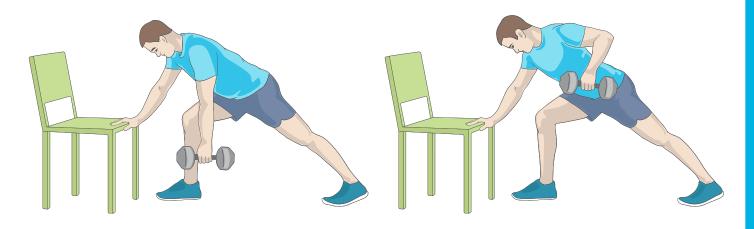
Stand with feet shoulder-width apart, arms extended in front of you.

With abs engaged, ribs pulled down, and tailbone tucked under, push hips back and lower as far as you can, keeping feet straight and knees aligned with little toe.

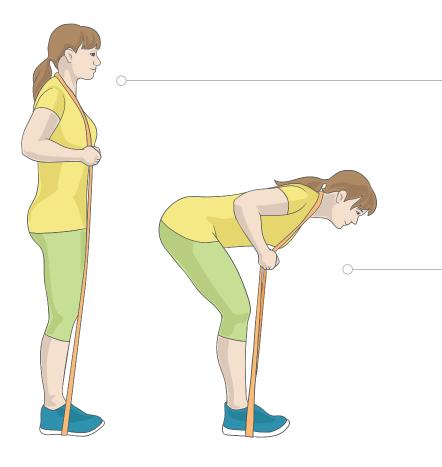
Drive weight into heels and midfoot to return to start.

SINGLE-ARM DUMBBELL ROW

Stand in high lunge, right foot forward and right hand on secure bench or chair supporting you, dumbbell in left hand. Keeping ribs down, abs tight, tailbone tucked, and weight through forward heel, pull dumbbell toward lower ribs while locking your shoulder blade inward and down.



BANDED HIP EXTENSION

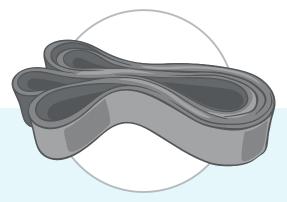


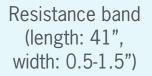
Stand with feet shoulder-width apart with resistance band looped behind neck and ends secured under feet.

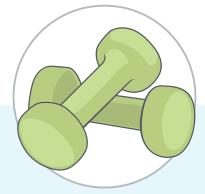
Keeping abs engaged, ribs pulled down, back straight, and weight rooted through heels, push your hips back and bend at waist until you feel a slight stretch in hamstrings.

Return to start, keeping abs tight, ribs down, and tailbone tucked.

YOUR MINIMALIST GYM



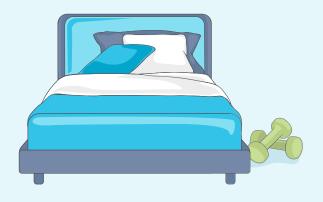




Choose a weight that's moderately challenging (women: 15-30 lb, men 30-50 lb.)

MAKE IT EASY

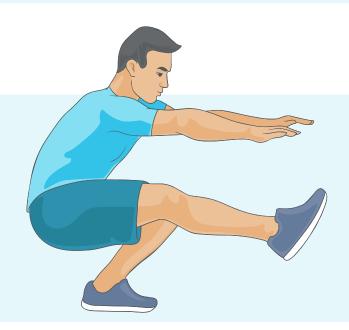
When you're busy and stressed, working memory and willpower are low. Here's how to make a minimal workout happen.



Keep your resistance bands or workout clothes somewhere visible, where you'll practically trip over them. Behavioral triggers make exercise more automatic, less thought-driven.

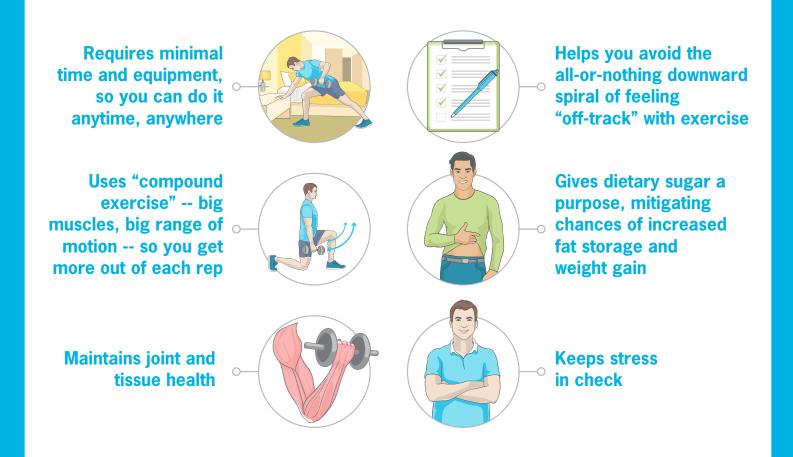
Don't think of the workout as a chore or punishment. Positivity keeps your stress hormone response in check and reduces hedonic compensation ("I did push-ups, so I earned this brownie").





Can't do one or more of the exercises in the circuit? Skip them. If possible, focus on the legs, which require greater muscle recruitment and energy burn. No dumbbell? Use whatever you can find to add weight to the moves.





To download printer- and tablet-friendly versions of this infographic, visit: http://www.precisionnutrition.com/how-to-stay-in-shape-when-youre-busy-infographic

