

# NLP

Re-program your control over  
emotions and behavior



FRED CREMONE

NLP

**Neuro Linguistic Programming**

**3rd Edition**

Reprogram Your Control over Emotions  
and Behavior

By

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# **Table of Contents** [Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1: The Importance of Control](#)

[Chapter 2: What You Believe Determines Your Path](#)

[Chapter 3: Physiology and Total Emotional Control](#)

[Chapter 4: Setting Goals for Ultimate Control](#)

[Chapter 5: Mastering the Art of NLP](#)

[Chapter 6: NLP in Practice – Transformation in Business](#)

[Chapter 7: NLP in Practice – Education through new eyes](#)

[Chapter 8: NLP in Practice – Parenting Positively](#)

[Chapter 9: NLP in Practice – Emotions in Relationships](#)

[Chapter 10: NLP in Practice – Public speaking](#)

[Chapter 11: Master Modern NLP Techniques](#)

[Chapter 12: Never be Afraid Again: Overcome Phobias with NLP](#)

[Chapter 13: Use of NLP in Improving your Health and Overall Well Being](#)

[Chapter 14: Discerning between NLP and Hypnosis](#)

[Chapter 15: The Dark Side of NLP](#)

[Chapter 16: How Leaders use NLP](#)

[Conclusion](#)

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# Introduction

It would be nice to be able to get the edge on life and find a way that makes gaining control over your emotions and out-of-control behaviors in a way that was easy, enjoyable and provided quick results. Is it wishful thinking? Neuro-Linguistic programming has proven to be a way that you can do just that. It is pain-free, drug-free and takes very little effort for the results that you see.

Unlike a lot of quasi-therapeutic methods, NLP was developed by psychologists that had a firm grasp on the importance of behavior modification technique. They merely devised a way to take it a step further and incorporate the help of the subconscious mind in pushing towards the changes needed to increase the speed of results.

This book will show you exactly what you need to do to isolate the individual problems you need to address and give you the steps and processes required to initiate the change you desire. The best part is that you can do all of the reprogramming yourself. It will put you squarely back in the driver's seat.

Neuro-Linguistic Programming can help:

- Eliminate bad habits like procrastination.
- Break the chains of addiction.
- Improve overall mood and emotional balance.
- Avoid the emotional roller coaster rides.
- Spot the emotional clues and warning signs leading to behavioral issues.

All it takes is an open mind, a few spare minutes, and a commitment to change. It doesn't have to cost a fortune to find a solution to the problems that are brought on by bad behaviors and loss of emotional control.

Imagine being able to ditch bad habits or live a more peaceful and calm life. Are you ready to jump in and learn how to use NLP? Let's get started!

## Chapter 1:

# The Importance of Control

Control is a controversial topic, with different people approaching it in a myriad of ways. For most people, it requires being able to manage their lives and their surroundings. When a person feels as though they are in control of a situation, then they become less likely to experience emotions like fear and panic.

A short trip through the shows on television, these days show just how out of control many people feel and are when it comes to behavioral and emotional issues. There are entire reality shows devoted to people with chemical and alcohol addictions, serial cheating, hoarding and all manners of behavior issues. There are also movies that try to take on serious emotional control issues with humor, such as “Anger Management” starring Adam Sandler. Clearly there is an imbalance in society, and a need for reconciliation as so many people are out of control and they do not know how to handle this state of affairs.

The problem is these issues are the cause of a lot of misery for millions of millions of people. When a person is not in full control of their life, it can lead to divorce, depression and even suicide. It is nearly impossible always to be in control at all times, but even an 80% rate of emotional and behavioral control would seem like heaven to someone that is experiencing a severe lack in that particular department.

### How Loss of Emotional and Behavioral Control Impacts Your Life

There is no greater feeling than that of being organized and in complete control of everything that is happening in your life. This allows one to live peacefully, and be able to breathe a sigh of relief when faced with particular challenges. However, life is not as simple as this, and there are many instances where one can lose control.

Not being able to control spending can lead to bankruptcy and divorce. Not being able to dial down the anger can lead to arguments or fights and legal problems. Chemical addictions can lead to job loss and health problems. Not being in control can have a lot of bad effects that drag your life down in ways you could never imagine until it is too late.

There is no doubt that not having adequate control over your emotions and behavior can make life difficult for you and those around you. Nervous and anxious individuals not only increase stress in themselves, but it ramps up the atmosphere of stress for anyone around. It is easy to tell yourself to “not worry” about things, but putting that into practice is not always easy. In fact, it is never easy if you have made a lifelong habit out of worrying about anything and everything imaginable. Gaining control should be placed as a priority in your life.

The issue in gaining control is the “how” to do so. The reason why things seem to fall apart is because one may have tried a number of times, but the correct tools and techniques are not being used. This in turn leads to a frustrating round and round process, whereby, a person keeps repeating the same action over and over, yet they are expecting the same result.

Gaining control is therefore all about modifying behavior, in such a way that one can see a marked difference in present circumstances.

### What is Neuro-Linguistic Programming?

Neuro-Linguistic Programming is a type of behavioral modification therapy that can be done without a professional to oversee the process. There is no way to “do it wrong and get hurt.” If you are just learning and you do a step incorrectly at worst, you will simply not see any results. It was developed in the 1970’s as a way to theoretically see if behavior therapy could be turned up a notch by installing new instructions in the subconscious mind. It proved successful right out of the gate.

It has only gained prominence over the last couple of decades, and there are practitioners in every state of the US and Canada. It is not so complicated that you have to see a therapist that specializes in it, but it is nice to know that the option exists if you want to. Though there are very few therapists who specialize in NLP, one can ask for a neuro linguist psychotherapist, and it should be possible to get helpful advice.

It is not designed to replace the therapy that may be needed if suffering from chronic depression or bipolar disorder, nor is it intended to replace taking any necessary medications. You should always consult your doctor and let them know that you are exploring NLP therapy.

It does have several primary advantages though, and these include that it is mainly free, it can be done wherever you are, and it impacts positively on every area of a person’s life once it starts being practiced.



### How difficult is it to Use NLP?

One of the reasons that NLP is gaining in popularity is that the techniques and tools can be mastered quickly, and without too much difficulty or effort exerted.

The processes associated with NLP are easy for nearly anyone to understand and start using right away. You do not need to read tons of material or take special classes and training seminars. The straight-forward processes introduced in this book are all you need to get the controls reset for both your emotions and behavior. You can work on as many things as you wish.

As long as you have a few minutes to devote to NLP each day and keep a notebook handy you will make progress. It can be done at any time of the day or night, although you should try and set up a regular time so that you develop a good habit of daily NLP sessions. Make sure you keep progress notes so that you can give yourself a pat on the back as you progress towards the change you desire to make. You will see a change start within days and can be right where you want to be within weeks. It makes the reality of years of therapy an alternative path you will not want to take anymore.

Within this book, there are numerous techniques and tools that have been mentioned to help anyone master the art of using NLP. It is important to note that although NLP promises relatively quick results, it is not a quick fix type of therapy. In some cases, it requires basic repetitive practice, so as to get the techniques correct and, of course so that one can enjoy the full benefits that NLP has to offer.

### NLP Exercises

Your mind is continuously processing sensory information on a daily basis. This process is the one that determines by a great percentage how you view your surroundings and how you react to them. NLP will use this mental ability in order to reprogram your behavior, beliefs and assumptions, those that prevent you from achieving your goals so as to have new sets of beliefs, behavior and assumptions that will help you achieve your goals and make your outcomes better.

NLP exercises use all your five senses, which are sight, sound, touch, taste and smell as tools in communicating new behavior patterns to your mind. The sense organs act as routes through which communication to the brain takes place.

NLP exercises are mainly used to improve the quality of a person's life. This is achieved through rearrangement of how communication input is received by the mind. This way, you can use NLP for your personal development or to develop your relationships with other people.

**Its Function:** Neuro Linguistic programming exercises can be used in so many areas of a person's life, for instance in cases where one wants to eliminate a certain behavior and replace it with a much desirable behavior. One can manipulate his sense organs in order to change his perception of something or a situation. This way, one can have the desired emotion r psychological response. If for instance you have had a traumatic experience in the past, you can use NLP in order to deal with that experience. Just change the way that you recall that traumatic experience. You can change the color intensity for instance, the brightness of the surroundings and anything else that makes you recall that experience. Change all these to least traumatic memories that are less threatening and ensure that the latter experience is what is left glued in your mind. You will realize that you will never have to remember that traumatic experience that way ever again.

**NLP Presuppositions:** presuppositions are the belief systems that influence the way that a person behaves and his emotional responses. NLP is based on a set of very important presuppositions which works very well to promote one's growth and development. Some of these presuppositions include what you believe is true or false, what they believe will become true, the belief that knowing what you want will help you achieve it.

**Submodalities:** NLP exercises uses sensory aspects, or submodalities, or

situations and events so as to trigger the required behavior in the mind. The sensory aspects in this case are the five senses. The sense of sight can, for instance, be used in order to change the way that a person views a certain object or situation, maybe in terms of color, size, and distance, among others. Auditory submodalities are for instance clarity of sound, loudness, and range among others. NLP can be used for personal development and in this case, one can use the submodalities to visualize a pleasant happening in the future, which can influence the way that happening will impact him when it eventually comes to pass.

NLP Exercise anchors: in NLP, anchors will be used to trigger emotional responses and perceptions. Anchors are created by the mind during the visualization process, to create something pleasant or an upcoming event so as to prepare a person for that event or situation. Any form of stimulation can be used as an anchor, for instance holding one's hands together, lip biting, and floor tapping among others. The use of these anchors is to create an association between an upcoming event or action and the emotional responses. The aim here is to create a positive feeling during the visualization process, which should be carried through the anchor to the time the event occurs.

## Chapter 2:

# What You Believe Determines Your Path

There is a wealth of power behind words, and the meaning that they can attach to a person, situation or even a memory. How we perceive words will directly affect the way that we behave in a range of different circumstances.

How often have you had bad behaviors passed off as “habit?” Learned behavior can have a lot to do with how we pattern behaviors. Emotions can play a significant part in leading you to exhibit some unwanted behavior. Young children learn early how to get their way in many situations. It is through crying or other peace disturbing behaviors like tantrums. Parents often relent in order to restore the balance of emotions in the home, car or grocery store.

Looking at emotions through the eyes of a child makes it easier to understand how powerful they are. This is simply because a child has not yet learned how to lie, and, therefore, has not tried to figure out how to hide the truth.

Therefore, when the young child is screaming, it can be said that they are doing so because they *believe* that they will be attended to by their parent or caregiver.

It takes years to learn effectively how to assuage the emotions that send one into a spiral of immediate want of resolution or result. A lot of people never really master this skill. They get caught up in feeling the way they think and acting to reflect their thoughts is inevitable. This lets anyone off the hook when it comes to making the changes needed to improve emotional and behavioral control.

To make long lasting positive changes, it demands that you get an understanding of the basics that cause bad behaviors and loss of emotional control. It may seem like a bit of work at first, but you will soon start to recognize when the emotions are driving, and you can take the steps necessary to regain control.

### Importance of Beliefs

One of the worst things that can be done is to put off bad behavior or complete emotional meltdowns as children are to have them passed off as “that is just how they are.” It teaches people from the beginning that bad behavior is acceptable from you in certain situations simply because that is how you choose to handle things. It makes an individual weak from the start. It ends up making people search for the answers in the environment when it should be sought inside.

If it is indoctrinated in you that you will respond with external stimulus in such a way it is a belief. Having enough bad beliefs will guarantee that change will never occur. The beliefs we hold about anything and everything are what drive the subconscious mind. It is what determines what you will do, say and try to achieve consciously. It can be a goal oriented help or a barrier to ever gaining controls over the bad behaviors you want to correct. It can also leave you stranded on an emotional roller coaster your entire life.

If you believe that you will always get upset when someone tells you “no” you **WILL** always get upset when someone tells you “no.” It may not be the kind of upset that is seen as a full blown tantrum, but you will have a hard time dealing with negatives and feel stress and anxiety. No matter how much you outgrow some behaviors and feelings they can stick with you for a lifetime if you do not understand them and strive to change them.

### How Beliefs Are Made

Some of your beliefs are formed for you. It can be family or friends that tell you things about how you react to things, or even about your abilities. If they are good beliefs, it is a positive thing. More than likely it is where we gain out a lot of our bad beliefs. It explains away bursts of anger, impatience or even addictions to substances that harm your health. How easy is it for a smoker to quit if they are always told they can never quit?

Other beliefs emerge from experiences in life. If you are consistently bypassed for promotions and pay raises, you will eventually believe that you do not deserve them. You may experience numerous failed relationships and develop the belief that you do not make a good partner. If you believe negative ideals, you will be stuck in that rut forever. This is why a lot of “talk therapies” take years to work, if they ever do. Until you make the realization that what you believe about yourself is what will determine your outcome, you will never see real change.

The benefit of using NLP is that beliefs can be changed. This can be done quickly, and you will see results right away. This is great because someone can get so trapped in a bad belief, that it cripples them completely as they try to move towards their future. What may have taken years to get done in traditional behavioral modification can be done in days or weeks. There is no magic to it. It is simply a matter of knowing **WHY** you do what you do and changing it.

In dealing with the why you do something the way you do it, you also need to address any core reasons, rather than situational factors. By understanding the root of the core beliefs, it becomes easier to make changes where necessary.

### How to Change a Belief

You need to take some time and discover what your beliefs are when it comes to emotional control and behaviors. Take a notebook and start listing any and all of them you can think of. You may be surprised at what is lurking in your subconscious mind! Quite a few beliefs really have no bearing on how you behave or emotionally react to things, but ones that do are called *limiting beliefs*. These are the ones you want to isolate and change for the better.

Here are a few examples of some limiting beliefs:

- I am always cranky in the morning.
- Being told no makes me mad.
- I've been drinking alcohol too long to quit now.
- I have no patience on the freeway.
- I am too old to get things done.

You will want to change these to more positive beliefs such as:

- I look forward to a brand new day.
- Being told no makes me look at different opportunities.
- I can quit drinking alcohol because I am tired of it.
- Heavy traffic helps me work on defensive driving skills.
- Age has made me wiser and getters able to accomplish my goals.

Actually switching them out is not as hard as it may seem. The action of changing a negative thought into a positive thought is an excellent NLP technique. Here is another simple process to do just that:

- Find a quiet location and close your eyes.
- Create a visual representation in your mind of the bad belief. (such as a fanged wolf or bat)
- Starting from a small little picture, grow this image really large in your mind.
- Gradually shrink it in your head until it virtually disappears.
- Using your arm (in your imagination) brush the tiny image of it away.
- Create a warm and positive image of the new belief you want to have.
- Grow it larger and larger until it fills up the mental screen.
- Open your eyes. You are finished!
- Repeat this daily until you start feeling different from that particular belief.

### Placing Proper Value on Beliefs

To fully engage any new belief that you install you need to give it a lot of values. It has to be the one thing you really desire to see change. This is a huge way that the 1% top money earners are able to focus so hard on creating wealth. They keep earning and amassing great wealth a lot of value. It becomes a sort of center in their personal universe. If you truly want to get anger or anxiety under control, the positive change needs to hold a great deal of value to you.

You can create the path that you need to take to be free of any undesired behavior or emotional turmoil. You can finally take the reins and control your life. The great thing is you can revisit this exercise and do it as often as you need to. You will find limiting beliefs that surface from time to time, and you can tackle them as they become known to you. It is one of the most flexible and guaranteed ways to see real change quickly.



### Effective strategies you can use to change negative beliefs about yourself

What you believe about yourself is bound to affect the way that you perceive your environment and situations. If the belief patterns about yourself are negative, it is most likely going to affect the way that you live as well as the way that you relate to other people. This is the reason you should try as much as you can to change your belief system about yourself. Here are some strategies that you can use to change the negative beliefs that you may harbor.

**Create an affirmation:** Start by identifying the negative belief that you really have to change. If for instance you believe you are a failure, and this has been affecting your work and general performance in life, be clear and honest with yourself about this belief. Create questions around it, for instance ‘am I really a failure?’ Repeat this question in your mind several times and let your mind look for answers itself. Do not try to answer that question. Let your mind find out the answers for you and you could just change what you believe depending on the answers you will get.

**Drop your assumptions:** There are people who believe that things will happen in the future the way they happened in the past. This is an assumption that holds people back so much, such that they are not really able to do something different to change the outcome of a similar happening or event in the future. In this case, you have to practice being one to change.

Things do not always happen in the same way. If you failed in the past, you could succeed in the future so accept that things can change and practice this for a while. Shifting your assumption could make it easier for you to work towards the achievement of a better result in the future.

**Change your resistance:** It always happens that when you are trying to change something, there is that fear that things may not work well as you want to believe they will. You have to transform that resistance. This can be achieved through confirming that the resistance or fear is there and working hard to ensure that you overcome it.

If you want to change a behavior, there is that part of you that fears you will not manage to change the behavior. Do not ignore it; acknowledge the fear and come up with ways through which you can lessen that fear and overcome any hindrance that may prevent you from achieving the desired change.

**Come up with a new story:** When you consider the beliefs that you have, you

will realize that there is always a story behind a belief that you want to change. This story is not the only one, and this story is not the only true story that exists. To change that belief effectively, come up with more positive stories about the situation or event.

If you cannot speak in public for instance and you want to change this belief so as to overcome your fear, come up with more success stories about your public speaking and performance and engrave them in your mind. These will help you overcome the fear created by the belief that you have already changed.

**Stop judging yourself:** Every time you judge and criticize yourself, you justify the negative belief that you want to change, that is why you need to stop judging yourself. You need to develop self-compassion, kindness within yourself, mindfulness and humanity, all of which form the support system required for you to achieve a change in the belief.

Practice self-acceptance, appreciation, and optimism. Forgive yourself for the past mistakes and work hard to make things better the next time round. It will be much easier to change your negative belief about yourself if you accept your mistakes and get ready for changes.

**Change your way of approach:** Shift your focus from what you do not want to believe into what you want to be. Many times we focus on the negative that we want to eliminate and what it does to us is that we do not let go of the negative so easily.

If for instance you do not want to be overweight anymore, stop thinking about the foods that you should give up. Instead, focus on how you want to look and the kind of health you will enjoy after losing the excess body weight. It is easier to identify the desired results and to develop strategies that will help you achieve it.

**Instead of having expectations, hold onto intentions:** If you have a strong belief about what will happen in the future, that is an expectation. However, this should be changed to what you intend to do in order to make the future happening better and the process more bearable.

An intention is much better because it is within your control, and this means that you have the ability to change how you want things to be and the kind of belief that you want to have. If you are expecting to make a mistake for instance during a certain important presentation, come up with intentions instead and they will

help you overcome that belief.

## Chapter 3:

# Physiology and Total Emotional Control

How much easier could your life be if you could manage your emotions in an instant? How much better would you get along with co-workers, supervisors, family members and friends if you could be in complete control of your emotions? It is often emotional instability that leads to bad behaviors. A good example is that it takes feeling anger before you yell or pick up and throw things, right?

Many people strive to achieve balanced emotions, by increasing their awareness in regards to how they behave and how they react in certain situations. Although it would be excellent to say that people always behave well, a large amount of what is remembered is the negative or bad behavior. These are the emotions that drive people to do the worst out of control things.

Recognizing the rise of uncontrolled emotions is where the key lies in derailing bad behaviors. Imagine how groundbreaking this can be if you suffer from chronic bouts of depression or have difficulties in dealing with workplace bullies and gossips. It does not replace the need for professional counseling or taking medications in some instances. What it **WILL** do is give you an edge in changing a bad mood to a good one. It will help you curtail emotions that can overwhelm you in an instant and make you nonproductive.

This does not mean that you are pushing emotions down or not feeling anything. You will still experience every type of emotion but in a more controlled and uniform way. You will not be led by emotions, which is critical to feeling that life is stable, and obstacles can be managed. You can finally view a disappointment as something less than life-altering and a statement of your overall abilities to achieve anything. It brings a healthy balance.

When you begin making NLP a part of your daily life, you will learn more and more how you can control your emotions by thinking positively. This basically entails flipping the switch on all negative thoughts that come your way. To begin, this is something that you will be doing consciously. However, as time goes on, you will find that you are able to control your emotions subconsciously.



### The Body-Mind Link

There is volume after volume written on the skill and abilities of our mind to pick up on body language. Much of human communication is done without ever speaking or reading a single word. The mind is trained from early stages to read physical cues as to how someone is feeling or how receptive they are to talking with you. The amazing thing is that the mind can do this with your body. It picks up on the standard cues you give it to create the mood you are in currently.

The benefit of knowing this is that it gives you all of the proof you need to understand that you can control your moods far more than you ever thought possible. The way you sit, stand, breathe and view everything will ultimately cue your body to take on a mood. The next time you are feeling an extreme emotion of sadness or anger take note of all the physical cues you are giving your body. Each is unique to an individual, but most people that are depressed or sad will slouch and breathe slow.

Think of the extremes of any situation. How do you carry yourself if you are angry? Do you breathe harder and heavier? How about when you are really happy or excited? Changing the cues you give to your brain can instantly change your mood. This does not mean that you will feel instantly happy about losing a job or getting an eviction notice, but it does mean that you do not have to stay in depressed and dark place.

Your body language, or non-verbal communication, is also a key way that you can pass on a method. Using NLP means that you are more aware of how your body works together with your words to ensure that your message goes across clearly and authentically.

Take for example you are delivering an informative lecture on a geographical subject. To emphasize on certain points, you may use your arms to make shapes that will help describe the features that you are talking about. Slow movements, such as simple pacing, will make it easier for others to pay attention and train their eyes on you. It is all about how you can continue to bring your message across, by being conscious of how your body is moving.

### Pick a Mood-Any Mood

The NLP process for altering moods and gaining emotional control is not specific to things like anger and depression. It will work when it comes to ANY emotion that you want to gain control over. This is an excellent method of getting control over anxiety before it leads to debilitating conditions like panic disorder. It can eliminate the worries of those around you if you experience bursts of anger. Correct anger management means defusing the emotion of anger before it takes hold and grows out of control.

The best way to use this process to your advantage is to figure out which emotions you need to have under better control to bring more peace and happiness to your life. Recognizing what they are is the first step to being able to conquer them. You can use NLP to change your moods and control emotions through physiology anytime and anywhere. No one will even know that you are doing a thing.

The most difficult part of this process will be recognizing when you need to jump in and use NLP. You need to make it a habit several times a day to visit where your emotions are and if you are in a healthy spot. It is not too hard to know when you are really angry, but subtle building of anger, depression and anxiety may be a bit harder to spot right away.

Often, your body has subtle cues that will let you know when something is amiss emotionally. You may suddenly want to yell at someone who you believe has offended you, meaning you become a little touchy. Or you may feel your appetite increase, and you have something to eat to comfort you. All you need to do is be aware of these cues and it becomes easy to control your emotions and moods.

### How to Change Your Emotions at Any Time

The following process for changing mood and emotion should be done in a practice setting for a while so that you get the hang of what to look for and hope to give your brain the cues it needs to change. You need to be comfortable in understanding what your exact cues are that your mind picks up on with any given emotional state.

- Straighten your back and eliminate any slouch in your stance whether you are sitting or standing.
- Take deep and controlled breaths.
- Relax your facial muscles and put a smile on your face.
- Use a calm and upbeat tone when conversing with people.
- Close your eyes and envision a calm and serene environment if possible. (This is not practical if you are driving, but you can always pull the car over and do this)

You will feel an immediate relief from depression, high anxiety or even anger. Your body is able to pick up on the cues you send it right away. When you practice, try placing yourself in a down emotion. All you have to do is use the normal physiology you would when feeling extremely tired or depressed. It works right away. Be sure and reintroduce a better and happier feeling before you move on with your day!



### Managing emotions

Managing your emotions is possible, and this can make things very easy when you are trying to overcome a negative emotion. You have to start by understanding how you feel at a particular moment, and then try as much as you can to divert that feeling. If you are experiencing very strong emotions, try to shift your attention from the situation but if the emotions are less overwhelming, try to figure out the situations in a different and positive light.

In managing your emotions, you have to:

**Identify the emotion:** Identify all the strong emotions that you have felt in the past or what you are feeling at that moment. Determine what has triggered those emotions. All feelings are valid and so, do not try to judge yourself as this could trigger more negative emotions, and you will not be able to manage your emotions like you should. Being aware of the emotions will make it easier for you to manage these emotions.

**Use a distraction in case of overwhelming emotions:** You do not want these emotions to get the best out of you and to control your actions, therefore, look for a way to distract them. The best way to deal with a negative emotion is trying to divert your attention in other manageable aspects of the same situation. Once you are able to divert your attention, you will be able to come up with a strategy to handle that major emotion.

**Reappraise your thoughts:** This involves coming up with other outcomes of the situation, which are less emotional. If something has affected you significantly, try to rethink about the same thing with reduced emotions this time round.

If for instance you forgot about an important appointment, instead of thinking about what you really missed, think of it as just one missed appointment among many that you have honored in the past. If you addressed the public for the first time in your life and you had a hard time up there, try to imagine how brave you were to even stand and address so many people instead of focusing on how messy it was.

**Manage your reactions:** Try as much as possible not to react to a certain situation immediately. Whenever you find yourself in a situation where you are overwhelmed by emotions, do not act right away. Try to relax and exhale out the emotions. This way, you can easily find a healthy outlet for all the negative feelings you might be having at that time.

Try exercising and using breathing techniques and if possible, talk it out with someone else before you react to the situation. If there is no one available at that time, you can try writing it down in your journal. Prolonging your reactions helps in a big way to manage the way that you react to the most overwhelming emotions. Anger or bitterness can best be dealt with by exercising, martial arts or anything physical that will literally take out the feeling.

### Exercises that will help make managing your emotions easier

Powerful emotions drive one to do the things they do not want to do in life. Managing your emotions can help you avoid the kind of behavior you do want to be associated with. There are healthy ways through which you can manage even the strongest of your emotions so as to ensure that your behavior is at its best at all times.

**Journaling:** Writing down how you feel can help you manage your emotions in the end. You can easily understand your emotions and what makes you feel the way you do when you are emotional. All you need to do is then go over what you have written, and try to understand the root of your emotions.

In this way, you can easily pinpoint patterns of your emotions and become aware of what triggers them, and also gain control over them in the end. Journaling will help in relieving stress, solving problems more effectively as well as improving your health.

**Distance yourself from emotions:** This is very important because it becomes hard to seek out a solution when you are right in the middle of a problem. It will be hard to manage anger when you are angry, therefore, wait until that time that you are happy and try to look for solutions to your anger issues.

When you are angry, try to imagine your happy moments and this will help you realize that there are better times like happy times. When you are depressed, think or write about those days that things work the way you want. The main intention here is to divert the bad feeling that the emotion has brought to you to the good emotions that you expect would come soon. This way, you will only think of positive things once the bad emotions creep in.

Acknowledge that the emotions you feel at that moment are just one way that you can react to a certain situation or event and that there are other ways you can react to the same situation. Come up with other possible positive reactions to the situation so that you can react better the next time round.

**Define your emotions:** Acknowledge your feeling and name it; this way, you will take control over that feeling instead of the feeling taking control over you and determining your emotion. Feelings are mainly determined by your thought processes, sensory experiences as well as physical sensations.

When defining your feelings, you have to point out these three components. If for instance you are sad, find out the thought processes that made you sad, the

sensory experience that led to the feeling as well as the physical sensations behind the feeling. This will help you notice a feeling even before it takes control of your emotions. Once you are able to do this, you will always intervene on your emotions on time.

## Chapter 4:

# Setting Goals for Ultimate Control

Neuro-Linguistic Programming is all about being able to set reasonable goals and reach them in a timeframe that you can handle. Since it only takes a few minutes a day, there is no reason to not aim for progress every day. It can be done at home or at the office, so create a schedule that is easy for you to maintain.

If you notice a very little change to begin with revisit the list you created of beliefs and see if any are emerging that you haven't addressed yet. It could be as simple as a limiting belief that you didn't catch the first time through. All you will have to do is follow the process to change it to a better and more beneficial belief.

### Create a List for an Expected Outcome

In order to give your path real direction, you need to sit down and write out a list of goals. The ultimate goal with NLP is called outcome. What are the behaviors you want to change or the emotional controls that you want to put in place. How do you envision your life being different or improved? It will save you from taking a lot of unnecessary steps. It will help you focus your energies on what really matters.

If you are trying to change negative behaviors, then you spend a good amount of time exploring what the emotions are behind the behavior. Many people that smoke are not just fighting a physical addiction. Cigarettes are often used as a way to combat stress and anxiety. This means that the desired outcome would be to quit smoking, but it will entail first getting a grip on high levels of stress and anxiety.

How do your beliefs match up with your desired outcome? You need to have absolutely no doubts about your abilities to reach your end goal. If you see any stumbling blocks take care of them as soon as possible. If you are battling depression, it may take seeking assistance with medications and therapy. If you are trying to combat an addiction it may take short in-patient treatment to start. You always need to make sure that you are doing things safely and using common sense. Give yourself every chance to succeed.

An easy way to ensure that you have everything you need on the list is to use the power of visualization. Here, you begin by picturing the end result of what you want to achieve, and the joy that you will experience once it is achieved. The next thing you need to do is to think of all the steps that you need to take in order to get to that end result. It is from evaluating these steps that you will be able to create a list of tasks that need to be completed.

### Determine What the Path to Change Requires

If you struggle with anger management, then it only makes sense that certain situations will predispose you to lose your temper. Some people refer to these as “pet peeves.” Learning to avoid them when possible, or at least limiting the importance they hold for creating your emotional state is needed. If you can recognize that you tend to like controlling every type of situation you are that much farther ahead. You cannot possibly always have control, and you have to practice letting that go.

If you need to get control over depression you need to see where your mind tends to wander during periods of rest. Many people suffering from depression are very caught up worrying about things that cannot be controlled. Feeling as if you have no power in a given situation can lead to serious bouts of depression. Concentrate on things about a situation that you CAN control. If you have a troubled marriage, spend time doing things during the day that you enjoy. Every bit of momentary happiness you can bring to your life will make the rest seem a bit more bearable.

If you are dealing with anxiety, start a worry journal. It needs to be a notebook that you set aside to put all of your worries into. It will allow your mind to stay less absorbed with troubles that bring about high stress and feelings of anxiety. Let your mind know that you will simply look it over and worry about things later. It will bring about a state of relaxation and help you get control of unexpected and harsh bouts of anxiety.

It may take seeking the help of a professional to get down to what emotions are driving you to do unwanted behaviors. Once you know the cause, you can work on the cure. When it comes to emotional control, you will see improvement in a matter of weeks by being consistent.

If for any reason you are unable to see a professional, you can still find ways to address and deal with these types of emotions. You should start by taking time to understand really what path you are currently on, and why there seems to be a problem. If all goes well, people are normally not interested in correcting a plan, but if just one thing goes wrong, there can be serious panic.

The most important thing about using NLP to deal with this situation is to be honest with yourself and look objectively at your path. This will make it easier for you to recognize and initiate any changes that are necessary.





### Create Your Personal Milestones

If you took a road trip across the United States starting in New York and ending up in California, the trip would be more pleasant if you took breaks occasionally. Going from point “A” to point “B” can be a stressful journey if the end point is a long distance. It is no different if you are aiming for a very high goal. You will find success easier to reach if you break things up into mini-goals or milestones.

Milestones also include criteria that can be set out at the beginning of the journey, to provide a plan of action in regards to the goal to be met. They can also act as stops along the way where you can reward yourself, especially if most of the work that one does is mental rather than physical.

Changing behaviors or emotional controls can seem overwhelming initially. Change is not always an easy thing to do. Breaking it all down into pre-planned bite size portions can help. It allows you to implement ultimate focus on each leg of the journey. If you are trying to quit a bad habit and over-reach it can cause complete failure. Once again, we will point towards the cessation of smoking as an example. The quitting cold turkey method works for a few, but very few. Why is that? It is a drastic all or nothing approach. Allow your body time to reduce in nicotine levels so that you can better deal with the psychological addiction that smoking holds.

This is another reason why NLP is so successful. The ability to personalize every step on your path allows you to design a way to initiate change that makes it hard to fail. You can speed up the process, slow down or go back to square one, and you will never lose any of the positive benefits you have already received.

### Recognizing Success

How will you know when NLP has worked? The visible signs of a change in behaviors and feeling more in control of your emotions are well and good, but there are other ways that you can feel successful along the way. The one thing that will immediately and forever improve is your self-awareness of both mood, emotional control and how it impacts any behaviors you exhibit.

A first method you can use to check the success of your NLP is to observe the way other people are reacting to you. Has it improved communication? Are they looking up to you more? Have you heard a comment that something about you is “different”? If people are reflecting back positivity to you whenever you have an interaction with them, it is quite likely to evidence you need in order to believe that NLP is working.

Being able to master your emotions at any given time is a way of controlling situations that you may have never enjoyed before. You will fully realize the truth of the saying “you cannot control others, but you can control how you react to things.” It is empowering. There is very little that will bother you once you learn the process of taking care of your own emotional health.

In fact, numerous researchers and educators have spoken about controlling emotions in order to move ahead in life. There will always be a critic or a judge, but practicing NLP will give someone more confidence in themselves and what they can achieve. It teaches a sense of responsibility and avoids the impact of laying blame on other parties.

Once you have changed the beliefs in your subconscious mind, you will not take unexpected trips backward in progress. Your subconscious mind will put every effort into pushing the conscious mind to meet your goals. As easy as it used to be to ride on an emotional roller coaster you will feel the ability to take control and get into a calmer and peaceful states allowing them to take over. The real success lies in taking the necessary time to find the bad beliefs and change them.

## Chapter 5:

# Mastering the Art of NLP

NLP involves reprogramming your mind to achieve your goals. This is something new for many people but so many motivational speakers are now trying their best to teach people this success technique as it has been seen to work really well to change behavior and emotions as well as the beliefs of many people.

There are a few steps that you should take so as to successfully master the art of NLP, which will in turn help you to achieve a lot of things in life. These steps are outlined in this chapter.

**a) Understanding what you are getting into** This is the most important thing to do so as to attain success in mastering the use of NLP to achieve your goals in life. NLP is not an easy technique to learn, and so many people have not been able to control their mind or their language to do even the simplest things in their lives.

NLP will require you to not only conquer both these aspects but also to reevaluate our entire self so as to change things that have been pulling you back and hindering you from achieving success, for instance, beliefs. NLP will take some time; you need your entire life to master and change your beliefs and practices, therefore, do not be in a hurry to achieve great results in a short period of time.

**b) Take time to learn what NLP is all about** Many people talk of NLP yet they do not know what it entails in detail. For you to achieve great success with NLP, you have to understand the skill really well. There is a lot of information in the media for instance about NLP. Some of which is true and the rest is not true. Seek your own truth and ensure that you know what it really entails.

Understand how NLP works. In most cases in life, we identify a problem we are facing then look for a solution to it immediately, for instance, a headache is treated by taking pills. NLP is quite different; it identifies the problems and realizes that the problems were caused by something you fed into your brain. NLP then helps you realize that you have the ability to heal your problems; then it provides you with techniques through which you can fix such problems. Once you understand how this works, it will be very easy to apply NLP in achieving your life goals fixing most of the problems that you face every day.

**c) Understand that there is more than one way to master NLP**

Just like the human mind, NLP is open ended, and you can come up with many possibilities in order to achieve what you want with NLP. NLP is a tool that you can use to achieve many things in life. There is a skill for overcoming fear, for instance, and also a skill for overcoming negative emotions. If you want to obsess over something useful in life like working out, there is a skill for that. NLP has it all; just identify your preference and use it in order to make things better in your life.

**d) Experiment as much as you want** There is no specific way to use NLP to achieve your goals in life; experimenting in different ways will be of great help to you in the end. Focus on yourself and try to get deeper into your feelings and thoughts if you want to achieve positive results with NLP.

What you should do is to challenge your inner beliefs as well as the way you perceive things and the world in general. Be prepared to find out many things that you did not know anything about, and this could be a little bit scary. However, doing so is key to mastering NLP.

**e) Interpret things in your own way** There will be many revelations you will realize in your pursuit to self-discovery using NLP and since there is no guidance in this skill, you will have to come up with your interpretation of things and defining your own goals in life. This will come after you have mastered the use of NLP in discovering your limiting factors.

**f) Do not limit yourself** There is actually no limit when it comes to what the human mind can achieve; which is why you should not limit yourself either. If your mind can help you achieve so many things in life, why would you want to limit yourself? There will be no need to deal with your phobias anymore when you can easily overcome them using NLP. Set the

sky as your limit and achieve as much as you can for better days in life.

**g) Enjoy it** If you do not like changing your belief patterns, you may not achieve much through NLP, which is why you must enjoy it. Having fun while trying to get over your addictions, fears, obsessions and other things that limit your potential will help you achieve better results in the end.

You can do so much so as to get over these limiting factors, and this is how easy it will be for you to get your life back in order. Remember that the way that you feel about NLP is exactly how you should feel when you confront all those limiting factors. Try not to follow a certain path; define your own path, have as much fun as you can while at it and see how great it will be.

## **Chapter 6:**

### **NLP in Practice – Transformation in Business**

Companies around the globe have started to adopt NLP practices because they have incredible benefits that can propel the company to the next level. At the most basic, using NLP techniques will almost guarantee an increase in sales. In addition, communication between colleagues can improve vastly. All round, NLP is just what a business needs.

Neuro Linguistic Programming has a range of dimensions which are applicable in business. These include handling motivation patterns, behavioral change technology, conflict resolution, training, and coaching, influencing and learning and teaching. All these dimensions deal with emotions at some level, and once managed, these emotions are of great benefit.

The following section intends to address how NLP can build a business by optimizing its total performance.

### Optimizing Organizational Performance

NLP can make an impressive difference when the people in any business apply its techniques. This is because, with an active practice of NLP, it is possible to change behavior in such a way that everyone is working towards achieving success.

To start off, there are four principles that can guide any business interested in achieving success. The four principles are: -

### Work to Achieve Outcomes

Active use of NLP requires a person to begin to set goals, and work towards attaining those goals. This is particularly applicable in a business setting. Once you have an idea of what your outcome should be, your mind is better able to process the steps that should be taken so that you can meet that outcome. The key, and this is where NLP becomes effective, is to be conscious of your actions.

Being conscious can help your business stand out from a range of other businesses out there. Rather than working towards what they want, businesses not familiar with NLP might be working to avoid what they do not want. The problem with working with a negative outlook is that you will always attract a negative outlook. NLP places great emphasis on being outcome-oriented and focused. It also preaches positivity and suggests that even negative actions could have positive intentions.

In order to achieve these outcomes, it is important they are stated in positive terms. This means that they should always be skewed towards the 'bright side', instead of things that cannot get done.

To ensure that your projected outcomes are viable, they must be testable and measurable in a sensory specific way. This means that there should be some evidence to prove the outcome has been met. Being sensory specific means that you should be able to express yourself with words and feelings should you achieve the outcome.

When working towards achieving an outcome, it must be initiated and maintained by one person. This person needs to be in control of the outcome from beginning to end so that the behavior can be monitored, and

changes made if necessary. The idea here is that through NLP, an individual within the business can initiate a wave of positive change through their own behavior. It also makes it easier for them to be held accountable for their actions ..... or to get a bonus.

Every action has an equal or positive reaction. By practicing NLP, you become aware of your actions and their possible consequences to ensure that no harm comes to you or other people. You are also better able to project positive actions, so that if people are mirroring back what they see in you, you will only have positive responses to content with.

### **Understand and Be Aware of your Senses**

When you have mastered the ability to use NLP, you will be able to read other people easily. This refers to all the non-verbal cues they use consciously or unconsciously when communicating with you. Your senses should be heightened because you are more aware of them.

You should be able to notice changes in skin color (blushing or going pale), higher or lower breathing rates, and even any flexing of the muscles. This skill can become crucial when dealing with a customer as it makes it easier for the person practicing NLP to determine the type of effect that they are having on other people.

This will help the person practicing NLP to stop when they have achieved their desired outcome from the other person.

Take for example you are working in the sales department of a busy clothes store. A customer walks in, and you notice that they have broken a small sweat, are a little out of breath and keep glancing at their watch even before they have started shopping.

If you have been using the techniques in NLP, you might conclude that the customer is in a hurry and needs to be served quickly to ensure they make their next appointment. Therefore, you are able to adjust the level of service that you are offering accordingly.

### **Change your behavior to ensure an outcome**

This ties in directly with the first principle, and really addresses the core of



NLP, which is behavior modification. In a business setting, you need to be flexible enough to change gears if you notice that the reaction you expect is not the one you are getting.

This can only work efficiently if you always ensure that you have your end goal in your mind. This is particularly true if you used the power of visualization and had a picture the steps that you need to take to meet your goal.

To measure response, tap into your skill as explained in the second principle. Should you be achieving your desired outcome, you should continue with your pre-determined course of action. If, however, you are not meeting your desired outcome, you should attempt to use another approach.

When you spend time reviewing or watching your behavior, you can easily save time and anguish by simply being aware of the emotions and how you can deal with them.

## **Taking Action**

This calls for actively using NLP to make decisions in the present moment. There is no point in taking the time to learn all the NLP techniques if you do not put your learning to the test.

The thing is when working towards changing behavior; it is important to do things in the present. By being present, it becomes easier to modify and improve behavior where necessary.

Companies that send their staff on training for NLP skills, especially practitioner skills, will often focus on only sending their management team with the assumption that they would have learnt a new skill which can then trickle down to the rest of the team.

NLP is not a tool that should be limited to the management within a business. Rather, it is a technology that everyone in the organization should be well versed with in order to ensure adequate fulfillment of the organizational objectives. Employees can use NLP techniques to reach their optimum performance levels or to communicate better with the customers.

When one uses NLP skills in dealing with customers or communicating internally, the result is often quite clear – a percentage increase in spending by

customers or in the productivity of the employees.

When an employee at any level is trained to learn NLP skills, they become significantly empowered which usually leads to their increased output. NLP will teach each employee to create, comprehend and apply anything that can be done on a mental map.

In business, the aforementioned points highlight what the most common business challenge is. The main challenge is proper communication. Communication includes what goes on in a company, as well as what is happening with the customers.

#### Application of NLP in different areas in a business

NLP is significant in almost every aspect of a business, and it is useful to the employers as well as to the employees. The employees in an organization can use NLP techniques and exercises to:

- Set realistic and meaningful goals and achieve them

- Build their confidence so as to work and perform better all the time

- Boost their motivational and stay motivated throughout

- Identify some of the barriers that prevent them from achieving their goals in their work

- Clarify the dreams they might have for the future about their job and career

- Change some of the behaviors they do not want to exhibit as they work, which could interfere with their working or even cause them to lose their jobs

- To learn the skills of persuasion and influence, which are some of the most important skills in modern day businesses

- To align their life values around success and other important aspects of their lives.

The management will use NLP skills in different areas as well, for instance:

- In determining ways through which they can increase the productivity of the business

- In determining what they need to look out for when hiring the best candidates to work in their companies

- In the creation of strong and meaningful relationships with other business people, their employees, suppliers, clients and anyone else that is important to the business.

- During negotiations in order to improve the results, they get in the end

- In the creation of the best customer care service base for the company so as to take care of all the needs of their clients, however, different the needs and the clients might be.

- In conflict resolution and problem solving in the company and among employees, the company and its clients and also between the company and other companies.

- NLP skills can be helpful in determining ways through which the business can form teams that will perform much better and bring great results all the time.

Above all, NLP techniques can be used to boost the sales of a business.

### Use NLP to Boost Your Sales

Increased sales are the dream of every business, whether small or large. Business people are willing to do just about anything so as to boost their sales volume because this is what determines how well a business is doing. Salespeople, sales managers, entrepreneurs and business people are today using NLP in order to boost their sales volumes. Even the business that is doing extremely well, or a successful salesperson will need some tips that will help them stay on top of their game as far as increased sales are concerned.

NPL can help considerably since salespeople as well as their clients communicate differently. Neuro Linguistic programming has a set of insights and skills that are meant to incorporate the mind, the body as well as the emotions of people to enable them to communicate effectively with the other people. If you are involved in sales, these are skills and insights that will help you so as they could make you better in your career.

Everyone has a language that they prefer to talk or listen to. To connect to your clients, you have to know the kind of language that they prefer then use it to your advantage. Listen carefully as your clients talk so as to know if they prefer the use of visual words for instance or auditory words, then use their preferred language to sell to them.

You have to match your selling strategy with the strategy your clients use to buy. If a potential buyer is convinced more through auditory sounds, you will have to use sound to capture his attention. Carry samples to show those clients who prefer to see what they are buying first so as to capture their attention.

Listen to your clients as they tell you what they want or what they do not want, and then use this to sell your products or services. A client will state some of the things they do not need in a certain product or services for instance. Use this information to sell your product or survives, convincing them that what you have does not have what they do not want.

Below are some of the NLP techniques that you can adopt to boost your business sales:

- a) **Anchoring:** With this technique, you will create very positive and pleasant associations with your products or services in order to entice a potential client. When marketing, you are supposed to create an impression in the potential client's mind. They should then hold on to this

good impression for life and in case they are in need of something like what you are selling, they will buy it right away.

If you are a service provider, make it clear to potential clients how beneficial it will be for them to be served by you. This has to be done differently from what other companies are doing for you to create a lasting spark in your client's mind.

b) **Questioning:** With this technique, you come up with specific questions that you will ask potential clients, for instance, what it is that they are not getting from the products and services that they are using at the moment. The aim here is to lead them to your products or services, convincing them that they will get all what they are missing out, in what you are offering.

c) **Change the thought patterns** of your clients in order to achieve your goals. In this NLP technique, you will find out what their main concern is as far as your products or services are concerned. If for instance they are hesitant because it is a new product, try asking them what they will lose by trying something good.

Let them think in terms of a new and better product. If they are concerned about the pricing of your products or services, let them think in terms of how much they can benefit from the value of their money. Customers will always buy something they are sure is of great benefit to them in terms of quality, price, and convenience. These are some of the things you should use in order to interrupt their pattern of thinking to achieve your sales goals.

d) Clients will follow **someone who is in a position of authority**, therefore, use this in order to close your sales and they will be more than willing to deal with you. You can show them your own quotes, or you can give them references of people who are already using your products or services as a means of convincing them that they can trust you fully. This is a technique that will get you clients in no time at all.

## **Chapter 7:**

# **NLP in Practice – Education through new eyes**

As one considers the purpose of NLP (which is helping people to understand and take control of their thoughts and feelings for positive change), it becomes apparent why NLP has such an important role to play in education.

Learning to use NLP techniques while still a student can greatly affect how you conduct yourself in a business - in a very positive way. This is because, as a student, you use NLP to figure out the way that you learn. Learning occurs in three primary learning styles categories which are explained as follows.

#### a) Visual Learning

This is where the student learns the most and responds positively to visual stimuli. These include demonstrations, charts, reading and videos.

A student who learns visually will face a challenge when it comes to memorizing information or reading notes through a text book. If they have pictures that they can piece together in their minds, they are more likely to learn what is being taught.

Students who prefer visual learning are the type that are likely to come up with brainstorming sessions, featuring a visual representation of an entire idea.

Visuals are excellent because they provide a new way to see things. Practicing visualization involves looking into the future and picturing an achieved goal. This technique also fits within visual learning and can powerfully replace limiting beliefs in the students.



#### b) Auditory Learning

In this type of learning, a student prefers to learn by having things explained to them in detail. This knowledge is important to be aware of when one goes back to working with students because it may determine whether one has a leader or a follower in their classroom.

Learning through awaiting explanation is excellent for students who have to learn and understand the step by step processes. These students are able to remember everything that they are being taught because the system fits in with the way that they remember and assimilate information. If for any reason these students are taught using visual aids, for example, they might have some difficulty in keeping up or following the path that the information is leading them to.

A follower, in this case, would simply use this way of learning to receive instructions and would then follow them without question. The reason for this is that as long as the instructions are followed exactly, there can be no negative or wrong results. The student would be safe from making mistakes.

A leader would have a different outcome when using this learning technique. After the words have been explained, a leader could choose to take ownership of these words. If they have been stated in the negative, they can be approached as a positive. A student who is able to do this change in approaches has the ability to reframe, and this is a positive result that comes about when one practices NLP actively.

### c) Kinetic Learning

In this type of learning, the student will learn the best when they carry out an activity on their own. This is particularly true for taking part in experiments or other classes that have a practical aspect.

The best thing to do, in this case, would be to give the student a set of instructions and leave them to follow them the best way they can. In between, one can check on the student and point them in the right direction should it appear that things are not being done according to plan.

Students who prefer this type of independent learning will display short attention spans when they have to listen to long lectures or lessons. They prefer short, direct presentations of ideas, and they being given the opportunity to execute these ideas on their own.

The aforementioned learning style categories are ideal for students. However, NLP can also be highly beneficial for teachers. By taking the time to understand the different learning styles of each student, the teacher is then equipped with the tools to adopt tried and tested methods to help the students do well and have all their educational needs met.

This chapter can also be applied to trying to understand the way other people, such as customers, perceive things. With this skill, it will be much easier to handle them with care.

## Chapter 8:

### NLP in Practice – Parenting Positively

When one becomes a parent, they are filled with joy and expectation and then as their child grows older, they begin to realize something new. That they need to learn and understand the emotions and feelings of their child in such a way that they can have a positive effect on their development.

One of the best ways to do this is to find a way to view the world through the child's eyes, communicating more deeply and fulfilling all the child's emotional needs.

To start, this chapter shall look at NLP throughout five senses which make up our external territory. These five senses are sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste. All of these will form part of a memory.

What happens with children is that they take this external territory and give it an internal representation, known as the map. They then view the entire world through this map, with their perceptions, beliefs and values creating filters that they look through. These filters and the children's own perceptions are what make them unique individuals.

### Through the Eyes of a Child

Parents can use the techniques and tools of NLP to look at the world through the eyes of their child. NLP helps a parent see what the child is seeing, feel what they are feeling and hear what they are hearing. With this knowledge, a parent is better equipped to steer their children in the right direction.

This skill can be practically applied to trying to help your child overcome a fear. By seeing things from the child's point of view, a parent can reduce their fear to nothing.

If you are trying to improve the communication between yourself and your child, NLP is an excellent option to try. By being positive with your child and communicating clearly, you are likely to get the same responses from your child. In essence, they will mirror your behavior and emotional state.

Take, for example, a case where you are trying to discipline a child. Your natural instinct would be to correct them and with a negative, such as, do not throw your toys. The likely result will be more instances where the toys get thrown. If you are parenting using NLP techniques as your guide, rather than speaking in the negative, you will discipline your child from a positive angle. Therefore, you are more likely to say be careful which will actually have the child being more cautious and trying to keep their toys safe.

You can also teach your child to use some NLP skills so that they can build their confidence as they construct the map of their worlds. You can start by teaching your children how to visualize so that they can succeed in school. Picturing a positive outcome may encourage them to concentrate more when they are in class. You could also slowly teach them NLP techniques that they can use to handle difficult situations.

### Teaching Children NLP Skills

By giving your children the benefits of NLP techniques, you are helping them acquire good habits, get excellent communication skills and develop their very own high levels of confidence. This will be of substantial help to them as they move into the future.

As mentioned earlier, communication is key when parenting and by adopting NLP techniques, you cannot not communicate. NLP requires you to be conscious on your nonverbal communication, just as much as your verbal communication. This ensures that you do not send conflicting messages to your child, where what you say does not match the actions that you are making.

Sending conflicting actions might occur when one is telling their child “I love you”, yet their facial expressions shows frustration or their teeth are clenched. This means that the child is getting a positive message, yet is being busy giving out a negative message using body language.

NLP demands that one remains present, which stops a parent from reacting to a child’s past behavior or a memory of something that the child did. As parents, being human, one may shout loudly at your child as the upset has gathered within you. As the child may not be able to see directly in front of them, they would react to a past event can lead to confusion, and also misunderstanding or unhappiness. So it is important to note your tone of voice, the volume that you are speaking at and the actions that you are making.

Remember that you can interpret the meaning of your communication by observing the way your child responds. If you can see that your message is being misunderstood or getting lost in translation, you need to change the message that you are giving forward.

NLP opens these doors for you, revealing the options that exist for improved communication. You may have a child who learns visually, so it may be easier to communicate with them by using pictures or other visual aids.

Finally, without a doubt, children will try to push your boundaries. In an attempt to get the attention of a parent, some children will resort to displaying bad or negative behavior, such as being rude, violent and lashing out.

As a parent, one can use NLP techniques to control how to react to these situations. The idea here is to react as positively as possibly. Therefore, when

faced with a rude child, give a positive reaction which is called a pattern interrupt.

By reacting positively, your child will also feel the need to control their reactions and diffuse the situation.

## **Chapter 9:**

### **NLP in Practice – Emotions in Relationships**

It is impossible to have a book about emotion and transforming behavior without touching on the most important emotion of them all, and that is love. NLP techniques can bring about highly successful relationships, as each person in the relationship can work on their self-esteem and perfect some excellent communication skills.

NLP also helps with acceptance of a relationship and in helping the parties widen their perspectives when dealing with each other.

To make NLP work in your relationships, you can try the following steps: -

**a) Know what you believe**

You need to develop more than just a positive, though; you need a positive belief. This means that you believe in the possibility of having a brilliant relationship and that you will find the right person for you. Positive thinking can only have one output, and that is a positive result. With this, belief will come the motivation to go out and look for the relationship that you want (that is if you are single). If you are in a relationship, you should be encouraged to make improvements to your relationship.



**b) Make a non – negotiable list**

There are qualities that you will be looking for in a partner, and criteria for what is important to you. These are called your non-negotiables, meaning that if they are missing, you would seriously consider the viability of the union.

Using NLP, you will be able to discern which of these criteria is most important to you. When speaking to the person you desire, you can mentally check whether they meet your pre-determined criteria.

While doing so, you should also attempt to see them from their own perspective. You may even find yourself amending your life as you go along.

**c) Actively Communicate**

One of the maxims of NLP is that you cannot not communicate. Therefore, be proactive and communicate with the one who is the center of your attention. Whether you choose to communicate through the phone, email or even text messages, take the time to find out more about the other person. This should help to increase your motivation.

#### d) Avoid Arguments

Arguments and misunderstanding can be the downfall of any relationship, no matter how healthy it appears to be. With NLP techniques in mind, it becomes much easier to avoid arguments when dealing with your partner.

The best technique to use is pacing and leading. This directly relates to how one listens to their partner and then how they choose to react when dealing with a conflict. The listening should allow for adequate time to process what is being said, and leading should steer the conversation towards a solution for the problem.

e) Set SMART goals

NLP is all about setting goals, and visualizing where you would like to be in the future. The same principles can apply to relationships so that it becomes easier for you to assess whether the relationship is working. That is why it is imperative to set SMART goals.

**f) See the world through the eyes of others**

People like to be right about a whole range of things, but most particularly, this can become evident when dealing with their point of view. The great thing about NLP is that it makes one aware of all the filters that make it difficult to see a clear line. These filters may carry the values and expectations that have been accumulated over the years.

By understanding these filters, it becomes much easier to deal with people's behavior. There is also an incredible amount of patience, as a person without NLP will find that they may not be able to communicate with everyone due to quirks in the personality.

These maps in the mind form an understanding of how the world will be used and seen. A good communicator would be someone that is able to mentally move from their own map to match their partners map, making it easier for to better understand each other.

g) It's not just the message, it's the response.

If you have heard the term lost in translation, then you know that a message can lose all its meaning, all because it has been misunderstood. The normal result would be to blame the people around for this bad result.

NLP gets rid of the blame game completely. The person relaying the message is responsible for how it is understood. Therefore, if the message is not clear the one who is listening takes no blame while the person passing forward the message would need to repeat or improve upon what they communicate.

NLP makes it possible to “speak the other person’s language” when communicating. This means that there is enough flexibility which can allow for improved communication.

**h) Do your best with what you have**

The atmosphere around relationships is charged with expectations. There are expectations on both sides, mixed with emotions.

It is important to use NLP to understand the reason that people will behave in the way that they do, looking at their behavior and concluding that there is always a positive intention. It is all about patiently changing perspective, and appreciating that your partner is doing the best that they can with the resource that are available at that moment.

### Other NLP skills in Relationships

A practical application of NLP in a relationship is to use your auditory skills. This involves being able to truly listen to your partner. When you choose to actively listen, you can learn inspiring and amazing things about your partner. It also makes it easier for you to establish a rapport with them.

Creating a powerful visual image of your partner can do wonders for your love life. This involves visualizing them as you would like to see them, smiling, laughing, flirting and being happy.

To enhance your love, you can try this exercise.

- This exercise is meant to diffuse an argument. To start, you need to picture a time when you and your partner had a lovely day together. Focus on the rapport you built, and the intensity of your feelings.
- Remember the sounds you heard, sights you see, tastes and smells you experienced and the touch you shared.
- Once you are fully in the moment, anchor it to any part of your body.

Next, recall a time you had an argument. Think of your tone of voice, the surrounding area, and picture it as a still black and white picture.

Anchor this and fire it, letting it go.



## Chapter 10:

### NLP in Practice – Public speaking

Public speaking is the leading fear across the globe. Only the thought of speaking in public or making a speech is able to make anyone, even the strongest of all people on earth, nervous. However smart you are, or courageous you think you are, one is always afraid of how they will perform up there and what the reaction of their audience will be. The fear of the unknown is what makes it impossible for many possible public speakers to try it out even if it is something they really have to do. But learning the art of public speaking is one sure way to overcome the fear and be able to address an audience of many people.

Fear of public speaking is responsible for ruining the careers of many talented professionals across the globe. Many will not take up tasks requiring public address even when they are required to, and sometimes they give up on their careers just because they are unable to overcome these fears.

However, not many people are able to overcome the fear of standing up and speaking to a few or even so many people. At one time or another you will have to speak in public, maybe to represent your boss or your organization, to introduce yourself in a certain event or even to give a vote of thanks after an event, a speech in a wedding or any ceremony and so many other instances. If this has to go on well, you have to overcome that fear and NLP can help you improve your public speaking skills and to overcome the fear altogether.

### Where do people go wrong?

Identifying the mistake that people make during public speaking, which intensifies their fear and leads to a failure is one way through which you can better your skills. Here are some of the reasons that some find it difficult to speak in public.

**Wrong focus:** Focusing so much on yourself and a little on the audience is one mistake you should avoid. You will start to think that maybe you are shy, maybe you are introverted and incapable of addressing people or you will not be audible enough. These are wrong things that you constantly tell yourself, and you could be wrong. Using NLP as your guide, ask yourself this - if you are wrong about all these things, what other beliefs do you have about yourself that you could be wrong about?

**Practice:** Public speaking is a skill that you have to learn and practice in order to effectively do it. Practice making a speech as many times as possible and practice speaking in public many times as well. The mistake people make is that they do not practice as much as they should and once their turn comes, they panic.

**Positive inner speech:** Without enough practice, your inner voice will keep reminding you that you will make a fool of yourself. This is a wrong approach if you want to become a great public speaker. Replace all the negative thoughts with positive thoughts bit by bit. Before you even get on stage, a lot of people create mental pictures of how it will be. This is the moment of change; think of the audience applauding you and smiling all through the speech instead of thinking of how bad you will look on stage.

Think of the things that you will say and how you will say them in order to excite the audience. Think of the audience that you will be addressing in detail and focus more on them other than yourself.

**Overcoming the fear of failing:** For anyone that has not done public speaking in the past, there is always the fear of failing. This has to be overcome if you want to enjoy your first public speech as well as your audience. Think of the many times that you have succeeded the first time you tried something new. Think of a baby, who will always try to walk even if they fall every time they do it. If the baby was really afraid of falling, they would crawl until old age, but because they overcome their fears, they walk sooner than later. This is the attitude you should have in order to overcome your fears.

### Use of NLP Principles to Overcome Public Speaking Fear

So many people all over the world are attending NLP courses today so as to overcome their fear of speaking in public. This means that NLP has much to do with improvement in one's public speaking skills, and if you are willing to overcome such fear, you should also learn some techniques and improve your life significantly.

**Anchoring** is, for instance, a very effective NLP technique that you can apply so as to overcome your public speaking fear. Through anchoring, one can experience excellence in public speaking in a very powerful way. Anchoring helps one to change the way they feel about a certain situation or event. This is how you use anchoring technique so as to overcome your public speaking fear:

Identify the state that you want to experience at that time. This can be courage, confidence, calm among others.

Try to come up with things that you can do in order to achieve courage during public speaking. Basically, body language helps a lot in gaining and maintaining courage throughout the public speaking session. Decode what you will do at that time, how you will sit or if you will be standing, how you will be standing in order to have the courage to speak. You can choose to smile throughout the session if this will help you gain some courage.

Still in that state, imagine a circle in front of you and step into it, assuming that this will be the place where you will be addressing your audience.

Step out of that circle and feel the difference. Again, step into the circle again. You are supposed to feel the same when you step in the circle the second time as you felt the first time. If you have the courage at that instant, it means that you are slowly overcoming your public speaking fear.

**Visualization:** If you want to become a powerful public speaker, visualization is a NLP technique that you can use in order to achieve it. What you do in this technique is to run the entire activity in your mind over and over again, without visualizing on the fails but on the successes.

For it to work, visualize yourself delivering speeches that are powerful and effectively attaining success in the end. This should be done a few times before the actual public speaking day. What happens on that day is that you will have

an easy time delivering the speech and achieving your goals since the image is already glued in your mind.

**New behavior generator** is another NLP technique that you can apply so as to overcome your public speaking fear. In this technique, NLP modeling is applied so as to impart the skill and courage to the person overcoming the fear. The model, in this case, will be someone that has successfully spoken in public, addressed many issues in public and who did this with courage and excellence that you admire. By using this technique, you will be learning public speaking from someone whom you feel is good at it. You have to generate the behavior that you admire in that person to yourself.

**The Swiss technique:** The Swiss pattern is another NLP technique that can be of great help in public speaking. In this technique, you should identify something which you feel will make you fail when you will be delivering your public speech. You could, for instance, take note that people will be looking at you as you speak or as you make your presentation, which could make you feel nervous, hence fail in the end.

Once the trigger is identified, try thinking hard of how great you will be in order to block out that negative image. Come up with possible triggers of fear and some of the things you will do in order to overcome those triggers.

**Being in outcome frame:** This is a technique that will require you to dwell on the positives and not on the negatives. In this technique, you are required to make a conscious effort to deliver a perfect and effective speech in public. It will be hard to only think of positive outcomes which is why negative thoughts are allowed, but they should be canceled as soon as they resurface to avoid ruining the moment.

Instead of thinking of how scared you will be, for instance, you should replace such a thought with how brave you will be and how happy it will make you. Once this is created in the subconscious mind, it will be easy to achieve it in reality since the positive image will be stuck in your mind.

All these techniques and many other NLP techniques can be applied so as to overcome the fear of speaking in public. You can choose one and use it for your benefit, or you can apply multiple techniques so as to achieve effective results in a short period of time. The main aim here is to change your belief on how your

public speech will go and what the experience will be. All will work out well in the end.

## **Chapter 11:**

### **Master Modern NLP Techniques**

NLP is incredibly flexible, so there is no fixed method to practice when trying to learn different NLP techniques. However, despite this, there are some basic moves that you can “borrow” and improve on, so that you have the best personalized NLP experience.

So if you are interested in amending your behavior, this chapter contains the tools that can help you meet your outcome. They are detailed as follows: -

## Dissociation

When something does not go according to plan, your first reaction would naturally be to fight fire with fire and react accordingly. This means that if you are faced with someone who is angry, you would naturally react with anger. The only problem with this way of being is that you will often not feel better afterwards, nor will you attain a desirable result. Rather, you are likely to experience stress or upset.

This step, dissociation, is an NLP technique that quickly neutralizes all negative emotion. It focuses on objectivity to prompt behavioral change. One can follow these basic steps: -

- Clearly identify the emotion that you no longer want to experience.
- Be a person on the outside looking in. This means you should visualize yourself in that negative situation from the moment it began right to the very end.
- Play your visualization backward and forwards repeatedly in your mind. Once you are able to master this, you can add some silly music (mentally) to the emotion or problem. Run it back and forth three to four times in your mind.
- At this point, you can stop worrying about the negativity as it is likely that you have had a shift in your emotions. The more you do this exercise, the better you become at sharing and improving on other relationships.

## Collapsing Anchors

On occasion, it is highly likely that as you speak to someone, you get an answer you do not appreciate, that is, an unwanted response. When you learn how to collapse anchors, you are able to reduce the impact of any unwanted anchors in your life.

The steps to follow are as follows: -

- Think of what could have been said instead of the unwanted response. Then think of a time where you experienced pure joy. Make sure to really think very hard about this joyful time, so that it seems like an anchor on your body. Should you need to change your state for any reason, you can do so by gently humming a tune or even moving your body from one position to another.
- The next thing to do is wonder about the state that you wish you could change. Once the memory floods over you, the next step is to anchor it onto a different part of your body. You may need to refocus by changing position.
- Now think of both these anchors at the same time, and release them from your memory. There are likely to be numerous sides.
- Once you have recovered from any mixed feelings you can control your triggers that cause unwanted responses and create a state where your emotion and control level is neutral.



## Begin before you begin

This NLP technique is very useful when dealing with other people and communication. Human beings are geared with relatively short attention spans unless you can find a creative way to extend them.

Take for example, a manager is having a meeting with his/her subordinates. Once greetings have been completed and exchanged, before the meeting begins, the manager can say something like “I need to point out something before we begin”.

Then important points can be mentioned or outlined at this stage. The reason this can be so effective is because many people have their guard up during a formal meeting, and may resist participating or even actually listening.

By beginning before the beginning, a manager (or anyone else for that matter) can ensure that important points assimilate with the meeting's attendees, while their full attention is being held.

This technique is excellent because if the meeting is short, it can actually be completed without ever having to formally begin.

## Reframing Content

NLP is an effective tool to use when trying to overcome a negative situation, dealing with and controlling anger, or feeling powerless. The technique that can overcome all this negativity is reframing the content. Once you reframe content, you begin to change the meaning of the negative situation and you can actually turn it around into something empowering.

For example, you could have just lost an important relationship as the other party chooses to walk away from it. This may seem like a devastating situation, unless you change your perspective on what has happened. If this person can simply walk away, it is better to find out sooner rather than later before you invest too much into the relationship. This experience though saddening and difficult, will strengthen you and build you into a more dependable person.

With the passage of time, this situation will even invite some humor. Thinking in this way is the essence of reframing content. The idea is for one to flip the script and see things with a new perspective.

The reason this technique should be mastered is because it prevents people from giving in to panic and fear when faced with a situation that they do not like.

Though cliché, reframing content is all about looking at the bright side in every situation.

## Future Pricing

This NLP technique can literally help to propel you into the future that you want. It simply involves visualizing the end results, and then working backwards to break down the steps you need to follow so as to successfully meet this result.

To perfect this technique, you should do the following: -

- Start by finding a quiet place where you can relax and think. Ensure you have no distractions, so switch off your mobile devices, television and computer. This is something that should not be rushed, so be prepared to take your time, sit or take up a position where you are comfortable.
- Think of a skill that you already have which you want to change or improve so that you can meet a future goal. Picture the future goal, and then work backwards to where you are now, imagining what it would be like to accomplish that goal with the new skill.
- As you do this, relax your body with slow, deep, breaths.
- In your mind's eye, picture yourself improving the skill as if you were in a movie. Then just as you are getting comfortable, introduce a dramatic handicap. The key now is to visualize and create ways (in your mind) of how you are going to overcome this handicap and therefore fulfil your future goal.

## Simply Speak

Many people will never really say what they are thinking or feeling in the moment. This is because they are always wondering about what they are going to say before they actually say anything.

This changes the unconscious functions of language generation, grammar, and word selection into conscious functions, which then means that a message can be amended and may come out inauthentic.

There are times that people will simply speak, such as when they are on the phone. They are able to offer structured sentences without spending time wondering about how to relay a message.

Using NLP, one can start to speak simply in every situation. The idea here is to set an end goal and work your conversation towards meeting this end goal. It is important to stop worrying about looking silly or making a mistake as that causes overthinking which hinders communication.

The unconscious mind is very powerful. Once a goal has been mentally set, the unconscious mind will come up with the phrases and words that are in line with the set goal.

This NLP technique is an excellent reference to action learning, where the fastest way to learning anything is by actively doing it.

## Modelling successful persons

This is a very effective NLP technique that is mostly used in sports and businesses. In this technique, a model exhibiting the behavior that you desire is chosen and you are supposed to observe them in action so as to learn from them.

If in business for instance, you will want to imitate someone that closes deals successfully, someone that is confident, smart and always motivated to do business. You have to watch this person as they do their thing and maybe learn from their body language, tone of voice as they speak, their body posture among other things.

Modeling is not done once but several times until it becomes a habit. When your turn to do it comes, you will have no problem presenting yourself, just like your successful model.

## Empowering questions

In this technique you come up with questions that will direct attention to where you want it to be so as to change the thinking patterns of yourself or another person. This is a technique that is used in business to convince clients what they are missing out on your products or services.

If you want to quit a bad habit for instance, you may ask yourself direct questions that are supposed to convince you how bad that habit is. If you want to start something new, questions can be used so as to convince your mind that it is the right thing to do.

You can for instance come up with a list of benefits that you will enjoy once you start working out through a series of important questions.

## Creating rapport

This is a much easier skill to learn and it will help you to get along with any kind of person out there. Creating a rapport with people can be done in so many different ways; you can for instance follow the breathing patterns of a person without them realizing it, you can copy their body language without being too obvious, you can choose to use the exact words that the other person uses among many other ways.

Find out their perception and use it too. It can either be auditory or kinesthetic or auditory perception. This can be done by talking to the person you are interested in, listen to the kinds of words that they use and how they use these words.

## Characteristics of play

Play is commonly used in NLP practices and techniques. Play is the best way to get in touch with the most unique parts of ourselves.

In this technique, you have to choose to play. It should come involuntarily, through an impulse.

Play should be serious yet not really serious. It should absorb you so that you will feel its intensity from deep within.

Play should mainly be about self-discovery. It should help you to create order and understanding about yourself.

If you want to discover more through play, go on without limiting yourself. It can go into deeper levels where religious and spiritual understanding are found. This could create some tension within you though, so tread carefully.



## Mind juggling

This is a very useful technique in case you are feeling anxious; it can bring balance between the right and the left sides of your brain and reduce anxiety in the end.

For mind juggling:

- Choose something that you really like, something that has some personal importance to you, that which will feel and sound good and won't be damaged if it falls. You should have an affinity for the object you will use more than its characteristics.
- To exercise, stand with your legs apart or sit with a straight back in a chair without arms.
- Position your hands in a way as if you are supporting something, with the object on one hand.
- Start tossing the object from one hand to the other, following the object with your eyes.
- Drop the object at occasional intervals in order to allow your mind to wander in a direction it wishes. This exercise can be done for as long as it is necessary.

## Fast phobic cure

This is a technique that is used to cure big fears. In this technique, you are supposed to imagine something that you fear in order to come into reality with it and overcome it.

In the technique, one can play the situation backwards in order to confront the fear in the context that it occurred so as to bring healing to the person with the phobia.

To get over the fear:

- Find the greatest fear of your life
- Imagine yourself in a movie theater, seated at the front row ready to watch your major fear. Imagine that which you fear the most on that big screen, and you are watching from the front row.
- Imagine yourself outside, from a window, watching yourself looking at the screen.
- Play the fear over and over again on the big screen, as you watch yourself watching from a balcony, testing the phobic reaction. You can repeat this as many times as it is necessary, letting yourself change the positions in the theatre and changing the colors of the fear on the screen so as to encounter your fear in all manner of visualizations.
- After sometimes, your fear will not be as intense as it was and as you continue to imagine yourself confronting that which you fear the most, the fear will go down and you will no longer have any fear in you.

## Fool proof planning

This is another successful NLP technique that will help you plan for something that you are about to do to ensure that it goes on well without fail.

In this technique, imagine the way that you will be behaving, talking, feeling and thinking on the new direction that you are about to take. Involve all your senses in this so as to make the feelings real.

Still in that state, ask yourself important questions as you write down the answers, for instance what you should do before that day or event begins. For every step you will be taking, ask yourself what should be done before it and write all these down as they will help you prepare for a successful event or day.

Repeat all this until you have covered everything that should be done on that perfect day. By the time you are done, you should have all the steps written down for the actual day.

Give the steps a timescale so as to create a perfect event. If it will take some days, ensure that you have a start date and the finish date indicated.

This is a perfect technique to use whenever you are planning complex tasks that you are afraid you may not finish on time. You may be fearing that you will get confused along the way but through this NLP technique, you can create a perfect and smooth flowing schedule that will guide you all through. If you have more than one task, plan them in such a manner that the dates do not crash.

## Chapter 12:

# Never be Afraid Again: Overcome Phobias with NLP

All over the globe, there are people living with a range of fears. Fears that are all consuming and seem completely out of control can be referred to as phobias. There is a certain amount of fear that is healthy, and then there is fear that stops you from normally functioning on a day to day basis.

NLP techniques can help you to overcome this crippling fear effectively, so that you never have to feel it again.

Imagine you have a phobia of being in public places. You have an excellent mind and are keep to start a business, but you cannot do so – all because you may have to go out into public places. You find yourself stranded in your home, unable to go out into the world, wondering what you should do and feeling a considerable amount of shame at your inability to get up and go. You may not even be aware as to why you have this phobia, maybe you simply recall that one day something happened and since then, public places have been a no go area for you.

You may have become a natural at deflecting by using phrases like “not right now” and “I’ll think about it”, to get out of ever having to interact or go out into public places.

### Methods to Overcoming Phobias

The first step to overcoming phobias is to understand NLP anchors. Here is a practical example that can be applied to fear of public places.

You would start by thinking about how you have a block when it comes to going into public places. You are unmotivated and apprehensive and have decided that it is not worth it. Create a vivid mental picture of this situation, and feel the feelings that are associated with it – like your racing heart, listen for the sounds – like your shallow breathing, and when it is crystal clear, anchor it onto any part of your body.

The next thing you should do is think of all the frustration or desire you have felt by not meeting your goals and continue to stack those anchors.

With the full weight of your situation, dig deep into your consciousness and remember a time when you were able to get everything that you wanted. Paint a broad mental picture of that time, and remember what you saw, how you felt and what you heard. It should feel as real for you at the moment as it did when it was happening.

Allow the feeling of satisfaction to wash completely over you and then anchor that to a different part of your body.

Now fire your first anchor and think of all the times you were an obstacle to yourself. Then fire the second anchor and mentally hold on to both, and then release the first anchor. Repeat this process in your mind over and over again until you feel motivated to go out there and take action.

You need to focus on all the good feelings and experiences that you have missed out on as a result of your phobia, rather than dwell in all the negatives.

The above technique is relatively time consuming and you may be looking for a quick way to use NLP to overcome a phobia. This next technique is fast and should help you see almost immediate results. The example shall be the same as for the earlier method, which is trying to overcome the fear of public places.

- To begin, think of what exactly happens when you are experiencing a phobic response or an unpleasant memory when you want to go into public places.

- Next, remember a feeling of safety especially that you have been safe before going out into public places and after coming back from public places.
- Now that you know you can be safe, imagine yourself seated in a movie theatre, watching yourself on a small black and white screen.
- Picture yourself in control of that image, and see yourself in the projection booth, watching yourself seated in the movie theater, watching the small film on the screen,
- Your film should start with a time before you had a fear of public places and should play out the feeling you had then, before you experienced any fear. Keep this picture going until you feel totally safe.
- When you feel completely safe, freeze the film and turn the screen completely white.
- Vividly imagine yourself floating out of the projection booth, and then out of the seat and landing on the end of the film.
- Quickly run the movie backwards in full Technicolor as if you have been in it the entire time, right back to the beginning when you really felt safe.
- As you go into the future, all you need to do is remember that feeling of safety, and you will find that you are better equipped to handle phobias.

## **Chapter 13:**

# **Use of NLP in Improving your Health and Overall Well Being**

The health of a person and their overall wellbeing should be the most important aspects of their lives, as this determines the quality of life they live. If you have been feeling unwell lately, you can employ some NLP techniques in order to drastically improve your health and promote your wellbeing. There are various aspects of wellbeing that you will address in this case, for instance stress reduction, accessing and stimulating healing states, eliminating anxieties, creation and maintenance of ideal weight and so on.

### Stress reduction using NLP

The body will allow you to experience just enough stress in order to stay healthy but once too much stress is experienced, it causes chemicals in the body and interferes with the functioning of the brain. NLP techniques will help you to manage a certain amount of stress and to let go of the excess stress that is damaging to your health and wellbeing. Below are some effective NLP exercises that you can use for stress reduction: **Reframe the Stress**

This technique will require you to find out the underlying reason behind the stress. In most cases, we are aware of our stressors, so this should be very easy for you once the cause of stress is determined. You will be required to come up with possible solutions to fix the problem without involving stress.

If for instance you do not have enough money to run a certain project, this is a good stressor. What you need to do is to analyze the problem and come up with possible solutions that do not involve stress in any way. You can for instance decide to go for loans, borrow money from friends, or deal with only the amount of money that you have.

### Use of Meta Mantras

In this technique, you use some words to reassure yourself and make yourself feel better about the situation. If you messed up at work for instance and you do not know what will happen once your boss finds out what you did, repeat such phrases like ‘so what?’ If you hear yourself ask ‘what if’ questions, it is time to repeat the mantras over and over again so as to make the situation better in your mind. This will help reduce so much stress.

### Meditation or relaxation

You only need a few minutes in a day to relax. During this time, close your eyes and allow your mind to wander. Think of how great things would be if the situation was different and enjoy the feeling. Make your imaginations as clear as possible and fantasize with no limitations at all. Your main focus at this instance is relaxation and not the solutions to the problems that you are facing. Once you are fully relaxed, the stress will be gone and you will be ready to face another day.



## **Staying in the present**

Take some minutes off your busy schedule to just live in the moment. Enjoy the sounds, the sights you see, and the feelings you experience and try to relax at that moment. This is a sure way to drive out the stress. This can take only 5 minutes but it can help you reduce your stress to a manageable state. During this time, try not to think of anything else but what you are feeling and what is happening around you. Forget about your worries and stressors and just enjoy the present.

## **Finish tasks**

Always have a list of things that you ought to do the following day in the place where you work or at home by the time you leave. You need a diary for this since you want these things back in your mind as well. This can be a great way to avoid stressors and reduce stress.

## **Change your mental pictures**

The images you create in your mind when you are stressed are very different from the ones you create in normal circumstances. Take note of the images you create when you are stressed and come up with some images that could replace those. You can try to eliminate those images created when you are stressed by trying as much as possible to make them small, move them away in your mind, and eliminate them completely. The images you will choose for the replacement should be more relaxing, big, colorful, exciting and so many other good things you can imagine will bring a relief to your mind.

**Changing the tone of your inner voice** There is always an inner voice that speaks to us in different circumstances of our lives. When you are stressed, your inner voice will sound stressed as well and it can keep you in a stressed mood for some time. You have to change it to a better sounding voice, maybe a funny voice that will make you feel much better. The changed inner voice is capable of taking your stress and worries away and the kinds of things it will communicate to you are much different from what is stressing you, therefore choose a better

voice.

**Close things off at the end of the day** A major stressor is the thought that you have not finished all the tasks you had planned for the day. At work, finish the day by checking out your to-do list for that day once again, opening and closing all the drawers just to be sure that everything is in its place and shutting down the computer. Ensure that you are aware of all the things you do as you close things off so as to register to your mind that everything for that day has been done. You may take that time to create a list of things that have to be done the following day.

### **The worry pad**

You need a worry pad and ensure that you bring it with you all the time just in case something worries you out there. As soon as you encounter something that is worrying you, write it down and come up with solutions there and then. If it is something that can be dealt with at that moment, do not push it aside as it may stress you. If there are things you have not been able to take care of, just take a few minutes in the evening, go through the worry pad list and worry for only those few minutes. This will prevent you from stressing over anything.

### **Use of laughter filter**

This is a technique that you can employ in order to view every stressful situation you encounter in your life in a humorous way. This will definitely reduce the stress and make you feel better as you figure out a way to fix the stressor.

### Generating Brainwaves for Healing through NLP

The human brain experiences 5 frequencies, which are beta, alpha, theta, delta and gamma. All these are important in the day to day functioning of the brain. Of all these frequencies, theta is the one that is associated with the body's natural self-healing.

NLP exercises are meant to ignite theta brainwaves so as to promote self-healing and ensure that the person is feeling much better in the end. This is done during meditation, deep relaxation, dreaming and also during hypnosis.

During NLP exercises, you are required to induce the theta brainwaves through certain mental practices. Once this is achieved, your stress levels are lowered as well as your anxiety levels and this helps to facilitate healing as well as personal growth.

As theta brain activity goes on, the body experiences rejuvenation, enhanced growth as well as healing. Theta brainwaves promote deep relaxation, which in turn restores the mind and the body during an illness and also after the illness. This can be done even during physical exertion or when you are experiencing burnout.

An increase in your theta brainwaves helps to boost your immune system. This is because these brainwaves are associated with stress reduction as well as boosting vitality. When you are stressed, the body releases chemicals that interfere with the immune system but after the activation of theta brainwaves, the stress and anxiety are reduced so much in order to optimize your immune system. Theta brainwaves do this by releasing pleasant chemicals and neurotransmitters which boost your immune system above the effect of stressors.

Theta brainwaves are also associated with increased creativity, an advanced level of problem solving skills, increasing levels of learning abilities, an improvement in your memory, and an increase in intuition levels among so many other benefits. That is why you should always use NLP exercises whenever you feel unwell, anxious stressed, down, less motivated and any other negative feeling you might have. Once you stimulate theta brainwaves, you will receive your healing and restoration in no time at all.

### Anxiety Reduction through NLP Techniques and Exercises

Anxiety is a very serious emotional state. It has been reported to be the leading reason why many people seek psychiatric treatments all over the world, meaning that it can get serious. Serious anxiety may lead to depression, which is why you need to take measures before it gets out of hand. NLP has been used for so many years to help reduce anxiety by so many people therefore if you are the kind of person who struggles with anxiety, you can try out a few exercises and NLP techniques to help reduce anxiety and bring yourself to a state of relaxation.

This is an exercise that you might find helpful whenever you are feeling anxious, overwhelmed or in a panicky state. It is a visualization exercise, therefore if you find it hard to follow through with the exercise alone, you can ask someone to take you through it:

Sit comfortably in a quiet place, with eyes closed, take three deep breaths as you inhale deeply and exhale slowly.

Think about the anxiety; where is it in your body? What is its shape? Does it have any color? Find out if it has a texture, its temperature. Is it big or small, light or heavy, moving or it is still, is it flexible or it is still?

Find out the exact part of your body that is feeling anxious. Is it your face, throat, stomach, chest, shoulders? You have to guide your conscious self to the exact place where the anxiety feels. Find out if the anxiety is in one part of the body or in many places and take yourself there.

Determine the surroundings of the part of the body with anxiety. What color is the surrounding? How does it feel? What does it look like? How exactly is the surrounding, still or moving? Stiff or flexible? Dark or clear? All these are imaginations you should create in your mind.

Alter the way the place surrounding the anxiety looks like in order to fade it away if it seems angry and stressed. If for instance it is colored, try to pour water on it in your imaginations just to fade it away. Try to dilute it as much as possible. If it feels hot, pour water on it just to cool it down. Alter the image in your mind about that surrounding until your mind's eyes see something better than what was there before.

If nothing changes and the surrounding is resistance to anything that you are doing to it, try moving it about, changing its location, shape, loosening it up; just anything that will make it feel different and better. Take time to do all this as you breathe deeply. Ensure you are relaxed all this time.

Now watch as the anxiety is taken over by the better surrounding; watch

as the surrounding dissolves the anxiety, pushes it away, makes it smaller and weaker, fades out its color and anything else that will make the anxiety disappear completely from your mental image.

Once the anxiety is gone, fill the empty space with new energy. Take deep breaths. Imagine something pleasant, with bright colors, big enough coming to fill the empty spaces that anxiety occupied. You should be feeling better at this stage and more energized. This should take away your anxiety and promote healing to your inner self.

NLP techniques that could help you heal anxiety

a) **Reframing anxiety and its symptoms:** Find out what the trigger for your anxiety is. It is easy to find out what you are anxious about. Once this is determined, try to find a better way to deal with that trigger. If for instance you have an important meeting the following day and you are anxious about its outcome, think of a better way to deal with that issue without being anxious about it. Counter the symptoms of anxiety as well and come up with better ways of reacting to the matter other than being anxious.

b) **Accessing resources and solutions:** Find out what you can do in order to make the event that you are anxious about better. If you have an important interview for instance and you are anxious about it, try to conduct research that will help you go there well prepared and ready to face the interviewers. Come up with more than one solution that will help you feel better about the issue other than being anxious about it.

c) **Set relaxation anchors:** Learn how to relax psychologically, without tightening your muscle groups, paying attention to your exhaling rather than your inhaling. You can come up with a phrase that will help you as you face that which is making you anxious. If for instance you are anxious about an upcoming examination, you can have a phrase like 'this is an exam I will take in the most relaxed state'. Repeat the phrase as you try to get deeper into your relaxation mode and enjoy the feeling.

d) **Alter the sub modalities:** This will always help in dealing with any stressing or troubling situation of your life. Why are you anxious about the event, someone or something? If for instance you are anxious about a job

interview because you have failed several interviews in the past, try to imagine this specific interview in a different perspective, different from the other ones. Imagine yourself being able to respond and impress the panel of interviewers more than you have done in the past. See yourself in a relaxed state. The aim here is to visualize the event in a different way from the way it has been in the past.

e) **Create more integrated beliefs:** Most times we are anxious because of the beliefs what we strongly hold about certain things, events or people. If you believe that you have the strictest boss, you will always be anxious every time you have to see him for one reason or another.

If you change that belief, you will feel better whenever you have to see him, even if you have a reason to be anxious. Start seeing your boss as someone friendly, more understanding, easy to talk to and may pleasant things that will, make him less threatening to you. Imagine yourself talking to him in a friendly and understanding manner, smiling and feeling great. If this is done several times before you have to see your boss, you will even be looking forward to that meeting.

## **Chapter 14:**

### **Discerning between NLP and Hypnosis**

NLP is often referred to as a form of hypnotherapy. This is a controversial stance, especially for people who are qualified as hypnotherapists. They believe that there is a difference in the underlying principles of hypnotherapy and NLP. This chapter commences with understanding the hypnotherapists point of view.

From their perspective, NLP is about mastering how to bring about personal excellence with the mind and language practices and techniques. NLP then goes further to understand the behavior of people, and then to influence their behavior to fulfill a desired outcome.

### Definitions for Hypnosis and Neuro Linguistic Programming

The first step to discerning the differences between NLP and hypnosis requires proper definitions of both terms, and they are given as follows: -

- As a technique, hypnosis generates an altered state of consciousness, where the unconscious mind is more available and accessible to respond to change.

Hypnotherapy is a therapeutic approach which used hypnosis. Whereas entertainers have misused hypnosis, by manipulating it to get people to display unusual behaviors, a hypnotherapist would use hypnosis in the right way, allowing the subject to give their permission and control the process as much as possible.

This means subjects are not prompted to do anything they do not want to do.

- NLP is an excellent set of learnt techniques that uses powerful language to generate change at the neurological level. It is transformational in nature and leads people towards making changes in their lives.

When applied in business, it can help to improve communication, increase sales and in interactions between employees. The similarity with proper use of hypnosis comes in when considering NLP in a therapeutic context.

In business, it is the people in sales and customer service that are highly likely to apply NLP technique as they work.

NLP is also an excellent method to apply to persons working in careers that require conflict resolution, and it is centered on the effectiveness. The issue that hypnotherapists have with NLP is that it has a very little medical and scientific credibility, whereas, hypnotherapy or hypnosis does.

NLP has a significant amount of experiential evidence supporting its effectiveness, whereas, for hypnosis, the evidence is more scientific.



### NLP vs. HYPNOSIS

The end goal of NLP is to reprogram your control over emotions and behavior. This is where another distinction between NLP and hypnosis becomes apparent. Hypnosis is more about using a specific set of techniques and tools to help one enter into a trance like state. The idea is to tap into the unconscious mind and discover the emotions that lie within. The aim here is simply learning, and not so much reprogramming of these emotions.

With NLP, there is no formal induction or process that needs to be followed. However, it is similar to hypnosis as it requires one also to tap into the unconscious mind. Rather than confuse NLP and Hypnosis with each other, they should be used together for a better way to clear up any issues that a person might have. Using NLP together with hypnosis allows a person to reach the depths of their unconscious mind more efficiently.

This is of great benefit when trying to identify and work on the root cause of an issue. Hypnosis makes it easier for a person to enter a relaxed state, where NLP techniques can be applied more efficiently.

Using hypnosis and NLP together is excellent when trying to deal with a myriad of issues. One can easily overcome a long standing phobia, tackle fluctuating weight loss, eliminate the need to procrastinate and even stop smoking. Psychological issues like dealing with depression, self-confidence, and self-esteem can benefit tremendously with NLP and Hypnotherapy.

When one uses both hypnosis and NLP, there is a shift in their internal imagery, thoughts and behaviors. To tell whether there has been any effect, all one has to do is evaluate a person's feelings or behavioral change. NLP allows this to be done quite efficiently and adding the element of hypnosis means that this can be done at a deeper unconscious level.

NLP and hypnosis also differ in the role that a practitioner plays when aiding the processes. An NLP practitioner can apply the techniques to help an individual in every area of their life. Whereas, this is not the case with a hypnotist. NLP focuses on the subjective experience and associated emotions, whereas, hypnosis is more about how a person responds to stimuli when in a trance like state of mind.

Born NLP and hypnosis have language patterns that are used for influencing

tools to get people to elicit a particular response. NLP practitioners can affect people both consciously and unconsciously. The ability to influence unconsciously may be the reason why they are often mixed up with hypnotists.

The difference with hypnosis is that there is a lack of awareness, and this increases the risk of unintentional hypnotic communication. NLP is able to change our behavior and affect every area of your life, whereas, with hypnosis, you are only able to deal with one issue at a time.

One can actually conclude that NLP uses tools and techniques which can be used to induce hypnosis. For example, a product of NLP is phobia cure due to using a particular model. Hypnosis is more of a communication method, where through the communication, change can be enabled.

## Chapter 15:

### The Dark Side of NLP

NLP has come under severe criticism since its inception by people claiming that it is not a verifiable behavioral modification method. This can partially be explained by trying to understand the maxims of NLP. Two of these say “If you always do what you’ve always done, you’ll always get what you’ve always got,” and “If what you’re doing isn’t working....to something else.”

Where other behavioral modification techniques tell you what to do, NLP shows you how to do something. With NLP, you learnt tools and techniques on how to fulfill your goals or how to alter and control your emotional wellbeing.

Therefore, when people make an argument about how well NLP works, it would be highly inaccurate to say that it just does not work. Instead a person would have to address – what about NLP does not work, and to be highly accurate in the response. Often, NLP is not criticized as a whole, but rather some of the NLP related concepts are criticized, especially in how they are used or applied.

Take for example hypnosis. Hypnotherapists believe that the technique taught for hypnosis during NLP training events is misrepresented. Their argument is that it takes years to perfect the art of hypnosis, and this skill cannot be taught in the space of a few hours. NLP, however, does not promise to teach hypnosis. Rather, it teaches one to connect better with their unconscious mind, using some elements of hypnotherapy to do so.

Although NLP is not a new concept, it does not seem to have the institutional support that others similar concepts enjoy. For example, there are not registered formal NLP associations in the United States of America; neither is there any official and verified certification that an NLP practitioner can claim to have.

This has not escaped the scope of academics, who are always quick to criticize anything about NLP. Some of the problems casting shade on NLP include: -

- **A General Lack of Awareness** – There is little research that has been done to cast NLP in a positive light, and NLP practitioners seem to be reluctant to recognize that they are facing problems with awareness

and recognition.

- **It's Full Name** – When the term programming is mentioned, there is some ambiguity about what it means exactly. Therefore, people may associate the concept with something that has to do with computers. This concept, NLP, really focuses on the mind and language facets to control emotions. Some critics suggest that they should actually stand for psychology instead of programming.
- **Easy to Use for Manipulation** – This comes about when people choose to misuses NLP techniques for their own gain. In fact, when some people become aware that others around them are practicing NLP, they will immediately clamp up, and communication can come to a resounding standstill.

NLP should be used for positive outcomes, and not as a way of controlling how people behave or their emotional state.

- **Converting into a career** – What happens when you are highly effective at solving problems in a problem solving company? You become highly efficient and before you know it, no one has problems left to solve, which will lead you go out of business.

It's hard to have certification that proves you are an NLP practitioner. Though there are programs that one can do covering a few hours of a training course, these do not hold the same weight as a university degree, for example. It becomes very challenging when one is an NLP practitioner to be taken seriously.

Many therapists practicing NLP have experienced their businesses suffering as it is not sustainable, in the long run. There are too few repeat customers.

NLP is not a one size fits all type of technique. It actually draws inspiration from adopting the patterns of behavior found in a range of techniques. This means that when one uses the NLP technique, they are not always likely going to work for every single person, in the same way. Everyone can apply the same techniques and achieve different results.

Therefore when evaluating how they can help to transform emotions, practitioners pick and choose what works for the present moment, and they leave out the rest. Unfortunately, as NLP is such an open concept, there are many people who have misrepresented it, and turned it into something that is clearly is

not. NLP has been left open to exploitation, both for financial gain and personal recognition. All this is as a result of NLP not being regulated.

NLP has been misunderstood with regard to its effectiveness over time. Some people have treated NLP like a miracle cure for everything, where if you start practicing it, your whole life will transform within minutes. This is far from the reality of what NLP can really do.

No doubt, NLP is highly effective. However, it needs active practice and adequate time for the results to be seen and confirmed. Each problem that NLP addresses should have a level of intensity attached, such as minor, major or severe. The closer the problem is to being too severe, the longer it will take for the NLP techniques to be effective. What one can safely say is that NLP is indeed faster than another traditional therapist.

## Chapter 16:

### How Leaders use NLP

There are leaders in society who acknowledge the use of NLP in order to be as effective as possibly, and to encourage open communication. There are others who are tough to be using NLP techniques in order to influence the public in a particular way.

Perhaps the most famous person “accused” of adopting NLP techniques is the President of the United States of America, Barack Obama.

### President Barack Obama

When one watches and listens to President Barack Obama make a speech, there is no doubt that he has a special quality that captures one attention and delivers the intended message.

Some say that by using NLP techniques, President Barack Obama is able to pass forward hypnotic suggestions to the subconscious minds of his audiences. His body language, especially slow and purposeful movements like hand clapping, have been attributed to NLP techniques.

Conspiracy theorists claim that President Barack Obama has some type of hypnotic effect that controls people who are susceptible to NLP. This is not only caused by the words that he uses, but also by his non-verbal body language. Critics say that the way President Barack Obama paces, uses hand gestures and the tone of his voice, all link together to create a hypnotic experience to captivate audiences.

Even with all these ideas, suppositions and conclusions, there is one thing that remains positive. If President Barack Obama uses NLP as a technique, he's good at it as he is able to communicate with people and connect with their emotions.

### Celebrities from around the Globe

For a confidence boost, many celebrities in the entertainment industry are also adopting NLP techniques into their daily lifestyles. This is because they attest to have found that practicing NLP really does have a transformational effect.

The first celebrity example discussed here is Cheryl Cole now known as Cheryl Fernandez Versini. She is a famous British singer, and also a judge on the popular reality show X factor. In life, she has suffered through clinical depression, divorce, physical illness and public rejection led to a serious bump to her self-esteem.

She attests to having used NLP techniques to create positive changes by finding a more positive way of being, which subsequently has led to a boost in their confidence.

Another British celebrity Russell Brand, is an actor and comedian. Through his life, he found that he would use his subconscious mind to cleverly devise ways to destroy his chances of success. He was a master self-saboteur.

In addition to this, he as an avid drug user who jumped from one relationship to another. He attributes NLP to saving his life. By practicing various NLP techniques, he was able to transform himself from a junkie to a movie star, and whenever he feels his life going into a slump, or when bad habits return, he revisits the NLP techniques that he has mastered to alter his consciousness and take control of his emotional wellbeing.

A host of other highly successful celebrities including Warren Buffett, Andre Agassi and Gerard Butler have used NLP to achieve amazing results in their lives and careers. They attest to using NLP when they are performing below their optimum levels.

Other celebrities have battled with self-esteem and self-confidence issues, and they have required the techniques of NLP to help them overcome these issues. Amongst the issues you can find social phobias, feelings of inadequacy, fear of failure, feelings of guilt and a need to overcome obstacles.

Celebrities who have used NLP to overcome these include Oprah Winfrey, Sophie Dahl, Geri Halliwell and Lily Allen. Following the use of NLP, they attested to gaining higher levels of confidence, and being able to tap into the emotions that will guarantee their success.

Looking deeper at Warren Buffett, he and a list of other billionaires in the



United States of America are mentioned in an article on how to think like a billionaire. They are meant to be rich and successful because they think differently from everyone else.

Apparently, if we adopt the NLP strategies they are using, it could open the door to fabulous wealth. You would need to do what they do, a technique referred to as modeling and mirroring. The idea here is to do what they believe is excellent. This can quickly build new dynamic behaviors into your consciousness.

It would entail letting go of outdate beliefs and laying down new templates for success.

Social experiments have also been conducted to illustrate the effects of NLP. On the Oprah Winfrey Show, women are split into two groups and each group as given a piece of paper with a word.

For one group, the words suggested negative traits such as rudeness, impatience and aggression. The other group had words suggested positive traits such as patience, calm, and politeness. The true test begun when the ladies were asked to return their papers to a distracted administrator.

Those who had negative words were frustrated and rude to the administration, yet those with positive words were able to exercise calm and patience. This is an illustration of how NLP words, whereby the words we use are our emotions and behavior. Therefore, we need to think consciously of positive words to use and say.

# Conclusion

Grab a notebook and a pen and set aside quality time each day to do this for yourself. You can work NLP technique into any schedule and see positive results pretty fast. Each step is easy to understand and do. Before you know it you can have the problem isolated and put a plan of action in place that creates the lasting change you desire.

There are many types of behavior modification therapy available. They all work to some degree, but it is the time and expense involved that can be frustrating. Most traditional behavior modification therapies include time-intensive programs that cost you and your insurance company a lot of money over time. NLP works the same way, but it brings you to the results faster without the expense.

If you have some behaviors that you would like to change or want to enjoy a more stable emotional well-being NLP offers you all of the benefits of intense therapy without the hassle and high cost. You now have all of the tools at your access to get started right away. Make this the day that you finally took control of your life and got the edge!

If you enjoyed this book, please be sure to leave a review on Amazon

Thank you and good luck!

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# **Table of Content** **Chapter 1: What Are Emotions?**

**Chapter 2: What Is Emotional Intelligence?**

**Chapter 3: Emotional and Mental Intelligence**

**Chapter 4: Developing Emotional Intelligence**

**Chapter 5: Applying Emotional Intelligence**

**Chapter 6: Raising Emotional Intelligence**

**Chapter 7: Emotional Intelligence and Personal**

**Relationships Chapter 8: Emotional**

**Intelligence and Professional Relationships**

**Chapter 9: Emotional Intelligence and Social**

**Skills Chapter 10: Stress Management**

**Techniques**

# Chapter 1:

## What Are Emotions?

### What Exactly Is An Emotion?

The scientific answer to that would be that an emotion is a psychological state that has three different components: the subjective experience, a physical response, and a behavioral or expressive response.

There are many different ways psychologists have tried to come up with in order to explain emotions. In 1972, a psychologist by the name of Paul Eckman proposed there are six, basic human emotions that are universal. Those emotions include disgust, fear, anger, happiness, surprise and sadness. In 1999, he expanded that list to include excitement, embarrassment, shame, contempt, pride, amusement, and satisfaction.

In between Eckman's times, in the 1980's, Robert Plutchik suggested another classification system. This system was called the wheel of emotions. He suggested there are different emotions that can be combined with one another in order to create another emotion, just like an artist might mix together the primary colors to make another color. Plutchik proposes there are eight primary emotions: happiness, sadness, anger, fear, trust, disgust, surprise, and anticipation. When they are combined, they create another emotion. For example, when happiness and anticipation are combined, they may make excitement.

So what about the three different components of emotions? This may better help you understand your own.

### Subjective Experience

Emotions are subjective even though all humans experience the basic, universal emotions. Regardless of our backgrounds or our cultures, we all experience the same basic emotions such as anger, sadness, or happiness. However, our experience of these emotions is actually unique. For example, not all anger is the same. There are subcategories of anger such as mild annoyance all the way up to blinding rage.

We never seem to experience a pure form of each emotion, either. Mixed

emotions over an even for a situation your life is not uncommon. Those who are faced with a new job might feel both excited and nervous. Those who are having children or getting married might have anything from joy to anxiety, to all the emotions in between. They can happen at the same time or they may happen one after the other.

## **Physical Response**

You've most likely felt your stomach lurch or twist when you're anxious or your heart palpate with fear. This is a physical response to your emotions. Many of these responses can include sweaty palms, a racing heart, and rapid breathing. These are all part of the sympathetic nervous system, which a branch of the autonomic nervous system. This part of your nervous system controls the body's fight or flight response, and when faced with a threat, these responses prepare your body to flee or face a threat.

Early studies of the physical forms of emotion focused on autonomic response, recent research has targeted the brain's role in your emotions. Brain scans show that the amygdala, a part of your limbic system, has a role in your emotions, especially fear. This is a tiny, almond shaped component of the brain that has been linked to hunger and thirst, as well as emotion and memory.

## **Behavioral Response**

This final component is most likely the one you are most familiar with, the expression of emotions. We spend a lot of time interpreting emotional expressions of those around us, and our ability to accurately understand the expressions of their emotions is what gives us emotional intelligence. These expressions play a large role in our body language. Expressions such as smiling or frowning are universal across the globe.

Our culture also plays a large role in how we express emotions. For example, in Japan, those who are in the presence of an authority figure mask their fear or disgust. They almost seem to shut-down.

### **Emotions vs. Moods**

Did you know that your emotions and moods are actually different? An emotion is something that is short-lived and intense, and they're likely to have a definite and identifiable cause. For example, you may feel angry after an argument with a friend or lover.

A mood is a milder version of an emotion that is longer-lasting. It's usually hard to determine the specific cause of a mood. For example, you may feel sad or lonely for several days without a real reason to feel that way.

### **Emotions Can Motivate Us to Take Action**

Let's say you're facing an exam in the morning that you know is going to be very difficult. What motivates you to study in order to pass that exam? The fear or anxiety you're feeling of failing that important exam. You experienced motivation due to your emotions.

People usually take action in order to experience a positive emotion and minimize their risk of feeling a negative emotion. For example, a person might try to find social activities or hobbies that leave them feel content, happy, and excited. They may also avoid a situation that could lead to sadness, boredom, or anxiety.

### **Emotions Help Us Survive, Thrive, and Avoid Danger**

Darwin believed that emotions were adaptations we developed in order to survive and reproduce. Anger made us confront the source of our irritation, and fear made us flee the threat. Love helped us find mates and seek out reproductions. Emotions are an adaptive role in our lives that motivate us to take action that will maximize chances for success.

### **Emotions Can Help Us Make Decisions**

We may think that our decisions are guided purely by logic and rationality, but our emotions always play a role in our good decision making process. In fact, research on those who have damage to their emotional intelligence shows that they make poor decisions, while those who have good emotional intelligence have excellent decision making skills.

### **Emotions Allow Other People to Understand Us**

Interaction with others is something that happens on a daily basis to us, and it's important that we give them emotional cues to help them understand what we're feeling. These cues can include body language like facial expressions, or stating

how we're feeling directly. When we tell someone we're feeling sad, happy, frightened, or excited, we're giving them imperative information that allow them to take action.

## **Emotions Allow Us to Understand Others**

The emotional expression of others around us provides us with a wealth of social information. Communicating socially is an imperative part of our daily lives and relationships, and when we can interpret and interact with those emotions of others, we're able to build stronger relationships. It allows us to respond in a deeper, more meaningful way that helps us strengthen the bonds with one another.

Darwin was one of the earliest researchers who scientifically studied emotions. He suggested that they are displayed in order for our survival and safety. For example, coming across a hissing or spitting animal tells you the animal is angry and upset. You are more likely to stay away and survive by not getting injured. In addition, we need to be aware of each other's emotions in order to stay out of stressful, dangerous situations and learn how to defuse them successfully.



## Chapter 2:

# What Is Emotional Intelligence?

### What Is Emotional Intelligence?

Your emotional intelligence is your capability to identify, use, understand, and manage your emotions on a positive way to relieve stress, communicate in an effective manner, empathize with those around you, overcome daily challenges, and defuse conflicts. It can impact many different aspects of your life, such as your behavior and how you interact with those around you.

If you have a high emotional intelligence, then you're able to see your emotional state, as well as the emotional state of those around you. You can engage with the people around you and draw them to you rather than push them away. You can use your understanding of their emotions in order to relate to them better, and form healthier relationships. You can also use it to achieve more success at work and lead a more fulfilling life.

Your emotional intelligence has three different attributes. These attributes include:

- **Self-awareness:** Your ability to see your own emotions and how they're affecting your thoughts, behavior, and actions. It's also your ability to recognize your strengths and weaknesses, and your level of self-confidence.
- **Self-manage:** This is your ability to control your spontaneous feelings and actions, as well as manage your emotions in a healthy manner. Those who can self-manage can take initiative, complete commitments, and adapt to their circumstances.
- **Social awareness:** This is your ability to understand the emotions, concerns, and needs of those around you by picking up on their emotional cues, your ability to feel comfortable in a social setting, and how to recognize the dynamics of a group or organization.

### Characteristics of Emotional Intelligence

According to Daniel Goleman, there are actually five elements to emotional intelligence. You'll recognize some of these from the previous chapter, but we're going to expand upon them.

### Self-awareness

You already know that self-awareness is your ability to understand your own emotions, and that you don't allow your emotions to rule over you. Those who are self-aware are confident individuals because they're able to allow their intuition to take control rather than letting their emotions take control.

Those who have self-awareness first must be able to take an honest look at themselves and know their strengths and weaknesses. They work on those areas in order to perform better.

Most psychologists believe this is the most important part of emotional intelligence.

### Self-regulation

When you're able to control your emotions and impulses, you have self-regulation. Those who are able to self-regulate do not allow themselves to become jealous or angry, and they do not ever make careless, impulsive decisions. They are able to think before they act. Some characteristics of this ability to self-regulate include comfort with change, thoughtfulness, integrity, and the ability to say no to others.

### Motivation

Motivation plays a key role in having a high degree of emotional intelligence. Those who are motivated are able to defer immediate results for long-term success. They're productive, enjoy a challenge, and are effective in whatever they do.

### Empathy

This is considered the second most important part of emotional intelligence. Empathy is your ability to identify with others and understand their needs, wants and viewpoints. Those who have empathy are excellent at recognizing other's feelings, even when they are not obvious. Empathetic people are great at managing relationships, relating to others, and listening. They do not judge quickly and avoid stereotyping others, and they live their lives in an honest and open way.

## **Social Skills**

It's easy to talk with and like people who have excellent social skills, which is another sign of high emotional intelligence. Those who have strong social skills are team players and focus on helping others before they focus on their own success. They manage disputes, communicate effectively, and are masters at relationships.

### Why Is Emotional Intelligence So Important?

Emotional intelligence is very important for everyone. We know that those who are the smartest are not always the most successful or the most fulfilled in their lives. We all know someone who is academically brilliant but they're not socially graceful and they're unsuccessful in their work or their personal relationships due to their ineptness. Our intellectual intelligence is not enough for us to be successful and happy in life. Your intellectual intelligence or IQ can get you into college, but your emotional intelligence is what will help you manage your emotions and the stress when you're facing final exams.

So what areas of your life does emotional intelligence affect?

- **Work:** Your emotional intelligence affects your work life significantly. If you have a high emotional intelligence, you can navigate the social complexities of your workplace and lead or motivate others. You can excel in your career. When it comes to gauging job candidates, companies view emotional intelligence as more important than technical ability and require emotional intelligence testing before they hire candidates.
- **Physical Health:** Chronic stress is a serious condition for those who are unable to manage their emotions. It leads to some serious health complications such as raised blood pressure, a suppressed immune system, an increased risk of heart attack and stroke, infertility, and a speed up of the aging process. Your first step is going to be learning how to relieve stress if you have a low emotional intelligence, but we'll get to that in later chapters.
- **Mental Health:** Chronic stress is also very detrimental to your mental health, and makes you vulnerable to illnesses such as anxiety and depression. If you're unable to manage or understand emotions, then you won't be able to manage mood swings. This can lead to the inability to form or manage strong relationships, and this leads to you feeling lonely and isolated.
- **Relationships:** If you have a stronger emotional intelligence level, then you are able to forge strong relationships with those around you because you can control your emotions and gauge the emotions of those you're speaking with or just being with. This can help you both in your personal and work life.

## Chapter 3:

# Emotional and Mental Intelligence

### What Is Mental Health Or Emotional Health?

Your emotional and mental health refers to your psychological well-being. It includes the quality of your relationships, how you feel about yourself, and your ability to manage your emotions and deal with difficulties in a calm manner.

A good mental health is not just about the absence of mental health problems. It's about being free from anxiety, depression, and other psychological issues. Mental and emotional health refer to positive characteristics. Remember that feeling bad is not the same as feeling good, and while some people may not have negative feelings, they need to do things that make them feel positive in order to feel mental and emotional health.

Those who are mentally and emotionally healthy have:

- A zest for life, laughing and fun.
- A sense of contentment.
- The ability to handle stress and brush past adversity.
- A sense of meaning in their relationships and activities.
- The flexibility to adapt to change and learn new things.
- A balance between their work life, play life, rest, activity, *etc.*
- The ability to create and maintain a fulfilling relationship with themselves and others.
- High self-esteem and self-confidence.

When you harbor these characteristics of mental and emotional health and stability, you're able to participate in life to the fullest by being productive and having meaningful activities and relationships. When you have these characteristics, you're able to weather life's challenges and stressful moments.

### The Role of Resilience in Mental and Emotional Health

When you are emotionally and mentally healthy, it doesn't mean that you don't go through some bad times in your life or experience some emotional problems. Everyone goes through loss, disappointments, and change. They're all normal parts of life that cause anxiety, sadness, and stress.

However, those who have a healthy emotional outlook are able to deal with those moments and bounce back from the trauma, adversity, and stress. This is known as resilience.

People who have tools for coping with those difficult situations and maintain a positive outlook are able to stay focused, creative, and flexible during the bad times, as well as the good.

As aforementioned, one of the key components to having a healthy emotional outlook is being able to balance your stress and your emotions. Your ability to recognize and express your emotions appropriately will help you avoid becoming stuck in anxiety, depression and other negative mood states. You also have to have a strong support network. Being able to trust people and having them around you turns you toward encouragement, which boosts your resilience during those tough times.

### **Physical Health Is Connected To Mental and Emotional Health**

Your body's needs should be of your first concern when it comes to your emotional and mental health. Your mind and your body are linked in a powerful way, and when you improve your physical well-being, you will experience a greater mental and emotional well-being. Exercise strengthens your heart and lungs, and it also releases endorphins that energize and lift your mood.

The activities you perform on a daily basis affect the way you feel emotionally and physically.

Here are some ways to improve your physical health:

- Get rest. When you get enough sleep, seven to eight hours every night, you're able to function with a more clear-headed mind. Without enough sleep, you can develop a short fuse which leads to outbursts.
- Learn about nutrition and practice it. First, do some research on what you should be eating and things you might want to avoid, like excess sugar and processed foods. Then, keep a diary of what you eat on a daily basis and how you feel after you eat those foods for a week. You'll start to see patterns as to what foods might aggravate you and what foods help you stay focused and alert.
- Exercise in order to relieve stress. You don't have to go to a gym in order to boost your endorphins and make yourself mentally happier and healthier. Just take the stairs instead of the elevator or take a walk

at lunch for fifteen minutes. Instead of taking the first bus stop, walk to the second one. There are many ways you can add exercise into your daily routine.

- Get some sunlight. You should have ten to fifteen minutes of direct sunlight every day. You can do this while gardening, exercising, or even socializing.
- Limit your alcohol and drug consumption. This includes cigarettes. All of these are stimulants that make you feel good for the short term, but they have some long-term negative side effects for not only your body, but your emotional and mental health, too.

## **Improve Mental and Emotional Health by Taking Care of Yourself**

If you want to maintain and strengthen your emotional and mental health, you have to pay attention to your needs and feelings first. Do not allow stress and negative emotions to build up, but instead try to maintain a balance between your daily responsibilities and the things that make you happy. If you take care of your needs first, you'll be able to deal with challenges when they arise in a much more positive manner.

Taking care of you includes some of the following:

- Do things that positively impact others. When you're being useful to others and being valued for what you're doing, you're building your self-esteem and self-confidence.
- Practice self-discipline. When you practice self-control, this leads to a sense of hopefulness and help you overcome despair.
- Learn to discover something new. Think of discovering something new as intellectual candy. Join a book club, take an adult educational class, learn a new language, visit a museum, or travel somewhere new, even if it's just a town in the same county you live in.
- Enjoy the beauty of art or nature. Studies have shown that those who take the time to smell the roses and view nature are able to lower their blood pressure and reduce their stress. Just sitting on the beach can be a great way to relax your nerves.
- Manage your stress. Stress is our enemy. It used to be necessary for short bursts of time to survive in the wild, but we're not chronically stressed, which can lead to heart disease and many other nasty illnesses. Try taking some stress management classes or utilizing

some of the stress relieving tips found later in this book.

- Limit unhealthy habits such as worrying. Stop becoming absorbed in repetitive mental habits, such as negative thoughts about yourself and the world. These drain your energy, suck up your time, and trigger feelings of fear, anxiety, and depression.
- Appeal to your senses. Be sure to remain calm and energized by appealing to your five senses. Listen to music, put some flower on your desk, massage your hands, or drink a warm cup of tea or hot cocoa. Indulge yourself!
- Engage in creative, meaningful work. When you do something that challenges your creativity and makes you feel productive, you boost your confidence and esteem levels. Try something such as writing, gardening, drawing, building something or playing an instrument.
- Get a pet. You're right, they're a big responsibility, but caring for one makes you feel loved and needed. Pets give you unconditional love and they don't care about who you fought with that day or whether or not you forgot the milk. They're always waiting for you when you get home and they're never in a bad mood.
- Make leisure time a priority. Play-time for adults is just as much a necessity as it is for children. We need to engage in leisure time in order to unwind from a hard day at work.
- Make some time for appreciation and contemplation. Think about everything you're grateful for and take some time to meditate, enjoy the sunset, or take a moment to pay attention to what's positive, good and beautiful throughout your day.

Remember that everyone is different and not everything that is good and beneficial to you will be the same for others. Some feel better when they're relaxing while others need stimulation and excitement in order to feel better. Just find the activities in your life that make you feel boosted and energized.



### Risk Factors for Mental and Emotional Problems

Mental and emotional health is shaped by experiences. Your early childhood experiences and memories are very significant. Genetic and biological factors may also play a role, but these are usually shaped and changed by experiences, too.

There are some risk factors that are able to compromise your mental and emotional health. These factors include:

- A poor connection or attachment with a primary caretaker in early life. If you felt abused, lonely, isolated, unsafe, or confused as an infant or as a young child, you are at a higher risk for mental and emotional complications.
- Traumas or serious loss, especially early in life. These might include experiencing a war, hospitalization, or even losing a loved one such as a parent or grandparent.
- Learned helplessness. Sometimes people experience negative experiences that lead to a belief that they're helpless and do not have any control over situations in their life.
- Illness. Chronic or disabling illness that isolates children from others can cause emotional and mental distress.
- Medication side-effects. Those who are older who are taking many medications are more at risk for experiencing side-effects, which can lead to emotional distress.
- Substance abuse. Abusing alcohol and drugs can cause mental, physical, and emotional problems.

Whether you've had internal or external factors that shaped your mental and emotional health, it's not too late to make the necessary changes in order to improve your psychological well-being. These risk factors can be counteracted with protective factors such as a healthy lifestyle, strong relationships, and coping strategies that help you manage stress and your negative emotions.

### When to Seek Professional Help for Emotional Problems

Sometimes, no matter how hard we try to do it alone, we need a professional to help us with our mental and emotional health. There's no shame in asking for help, and taking that leap will help you improve greatly.

Some red flag emotions and behaviors include:

- Insomnia
- Feeling helpless and hopeless consistently.
- Having problems concentrating at work and at home.
- Using food, nicotine, drugs, or alcohol in order to cope with your emotions.
- Self-destructive or negative thoughts or fears that you can't seem to control.
- Thoughts of suicide or death.

If you have any of these red flags, then it's best that you seek immediate treatment from a professional.

## Chapter 4:

# Developing Emotional Intelligence

Do you have emotional intelligence? The truth is that everyone has some level of what is referred to as emotional intelligence – some people just have more of it than others. If you are lacking emotional intelligence, luckily you can learn to develop more of it and use it in your everyday life. But first, how do you know whether you have a lot of emotional intelligence, or only a little? In order to answer this, you will first have to understand what emotional intelligence is.

Emotional intelligence is all about being able to know what people around you are feeling – what their emotions are. People with high emotional intelligence can easily tell what people they are associating with are feeling, and can then use it to benefit both themselves and others. If you understand what others are feeling, you will know how to treat them, talk to them, successfully work with them, and so much more.

You are probably wondering how you can develop your emotional intelligence. Well, you need to try to be more aware of your surroundings. Next time you are around others, try to take in all the little things about them that can signify what they are feeling. Are you someone who is generally caught up in a million things at once? Are you often stressed, worried, and frazzled? If this sounds like you, then you might be having trouble developing emotional intelligence because you don't take the time to focus on what is going on around you - you are always caught up in other things.

To develop your emotional intelligence, try practicing mindfulness. Mindfulness is just focusing on the present – instead of what might happen in the future or what has happened in the past. It sounds so simple, doesn't it? However, the truth is that with all the distractions of life, putting it into practice can be another story entirely.

You will have to work at it – so don't be discouraged if at first you fail. Practice again and again, and you will find yourself getting better at truly living in the present moment. In order to practice mindfulness, it is essential to be calm. So, you may need to do some breathing exercises to get rid of any stress or anxiety.

This will hopefully allow you to be calm enough to focus on only what is going on around you, instead of worrying needlessly about other things.

How will this new skill called mindfulness help you develop your emotional intelligence? Well, if you practice mindfulness when you are around others, you will be able to easily pick up on their emotions. You will be focused on the present, which make you a lot less likely to miss a sudden change in, for example, someone's face or voice. It is the little signs like these that can tell you how someone is feeling – and in order to notice them, you need to be completely focused on what is going on around you.

Hopefully these tips will help you develop more emotional intelligence in no time. To quickly summarize the key points of this chapter, be sure to remember how important it is to get rid of stress so you can focus on the present. This will increase your emotional intelligence greatly. But, now that you have greater emotional intelligence, you need to learn how to apply it in everyday life. If correctly applied, emotional intelligence can be extremely helpful. Keep reading to learn how to apply emotional intelligence in your life. Emotional intelligence can help you develop and sustain the relationships you have always wanted. With emotional intelligence, you will have more control over the relationships in your life. If you want to improve a relationship that you feel needs work, you will be able to. If you want to mend a friendship, it won't be as hard. Your family and work life will greatly benefit from your new skill – so don't wait any longer! The next chapter of this book will help you on your journey to improving the relationships in your life.

## Chapter 5:

# Applying Emotional Intelligence

In the last chapter you learned how to develop more emotional intelligence. Hopefully you are starting to apply these tips and ideas in your own life – but you may be having some trouble with that. Maybe you don't know exactly how to apply emotional intelligence to your everyday life. Well, applying emotional intelligence is just about learning how to use it to help you develop and grow relationships to their full potential.

To apply your newly developed emotional intelligence, you will need to first think about the situations that it will be useful in. So, think about this: are there any relationships in your life that you need to improve and work on? Is there any area in your life where you are having trouble with relationships: whether this may be personal or professional? The first step to developing these relationships is recognizing what situations require emotional intelligence, and what situations require you to use more emotional intelligence than others.

So, think about the situations that you encounter in day to day life which could be made easier if you were to simply apply some emotional intelligence. What interactions with others are difficult? What relationships are faltering or even falling apart? Now you know where to apply emotional intelligence. The next step is to know how to apply it to the specific situation.

In order to apply emotional intelligence, you will need to recognize these situations and then remember to take others' emotions into consideration when you are in these specific situations. Some situations will call for more emotional intelligence than others. These are situations where you are really struggling – but with emotional intelligence, you will find a way to work out these problems in no time at all.

For example, if you are always arguing with someone, and can sense your relationship with them is gradually deteriorating, this is a situation where

emotional intelligence can be a great help. With emotional intelligence, you can take the steps to gradually mend your relationship and become a happier, healthier person as a result.

First, take a step back from the situation and think about how you can apply emotional intelligence for the benefit of the relationship. Then, try to really focus on understanding what the other person is feeling and going through. Try as hard as you can to read their subtle voice tones, body language, reactions, and anything else, so you can figure out what emotions they are experiencing.

So, what do you do once you have some sort of idea of their emotions? The next step is to use this new knowledge to treat them accordingly, talk to them in a way that is best considering what their emotion is at the moment, and just interact with them in a way that takes their emotions into consideration. So, for example, if they seem to be having a very hard day, you would talk to them in a tone that might make them feel better. Of course, this is only one example – you will have to figure out how to apply your emotional intelligence to the specific situations that have occurred or will occur in your everyday life.

My hope is that now that you know more about how to apply emotional intelligence, you will find ways to strengthen the relationships in your life and build new ones that you never would have been able to build before. Between the information from this chapter and the information included in the last, you already know a lot about emotional intelligence and how you can use it in terms of relationships.

In the next two chapters, we will get more specific and delve into two particular categories of relationships. This will help you to learn about situations on a more specific and case by case level – but of course, in the end you will still have to tailor all of this knowledge to fit your own unique circumstances.

The next chapter will focus on how you can use emotional intelligence in your personal relationships. You will learn how you can start helping these relationships right now by simply applying the emotional intelligence that you

have developed. In this chapter, the focus will be specifically on family relationships. This will include relationships with both members of your immediate family and your extended family.

## Chapter 6:

# Raising Emotional Intelligence

### How to Raise Your Emotional Intelligence

So you know that you have a low emotional intelligence, but how do you boost it?

The information around use comes to the brain from our senses, and when that information becomes overwhelming or stressful to use, instinct takes over and we act with fight, flight or freeze. In order to have access to a wider range of choices and the ability to make good decisions, we have to be able to bring our emotions into balance when we need to.

Our memories are strongly linked to our emotions, and when we learn to stay connected to the emotional part of our brain at the same time we're connected to the rational part, we're expanding our range of choices and factoring emotional memory into our decision-making processes. This helps you stop continually repeating earlier mistakes.

In order to improve emotional intelligence and decision-making abilities, you have to first understand your emotions. Then you have to manage them. This can be accomplished through practicing and maintaining key skills that help you control and manage the overwhelming stress of everyday life, and helps you become an effective communicator.

You can develop emotional intelligence using a few key skills.

Emotional intelligence can be built by lowering stress levels, remaining focused, and becoming and staying connected to those around you and yourself. You can do this through a few key skills. The first two are imperative for controlling and managing your stress and the last three will improve your communication with others. Each skill is built upon the last skill, so you must start with the first one and work your way down.

These skills include:

- Reducing stress in stressful situations.
- Recognizing emotions and keeping them from overwhelming you.
- Connecting emotionally with those around you with nonverbal



communication.

- Using humor in order to stay connected, even in a challenging situation.
- Resolving conflict through positivity and confidence.

You can learn these key skills at any time, but there is a difference between learning about emotional intelligence and applying it to your life. Knowing that you ought to do something doesn't mean you will, and it's especially difficult when you've become overwhelmed by stress.

In order to permanently change your behavior and stand up under pressure, you have to learn how to overcome the stress in the moment and the stress in your relationships by knowing when your partner is feeling stressed. This means that you can't just read about it in order to master it. You have to practice the everyday skills in your life.

So here are the steps to reducing your emotional stress and building your emotional intelligence.

### **Reduce Stress in the Moment**

High levels of stress can really overwhelm your mind and body, and they get in the way of your ability to accurately understand a situation. You lose the ability to hear what others are saying, what they're feeling or might need, and how to communicate in a clear and concise manner.

When you learn how to calm yourself down and relieve that stress in a stressful moment, you learn how to stay balanced, focused, and in control no matter what challenge you may be facing.

Try the following three steps in order to rid yourself of stress in the moment:

1. Realize that you're stressed. I know it may seem silly, but sometimes we don't understand that we're actually stressed out. We don't know the warning signs that stress is overwhelming us, like a quickened heart rate, increased breathing, muscles tensing, stomach being tight or sore, hands clenching, or even tears of frustration. Being aware of your physical responses allows you to regulate the tension as it is occurring.
2. Identify your stress response. Each person reacts in a different way to stress, and if you tend to become angry or agitated under stress, you're going to need different techniques than someone who becomes

withdrawn or depressed. Those who become angry need quieting activities while those who become withdrawn or depressed need stimulating activities. If you freeze up, you may need to speed up in some ways and slow down in others.

3. Discover the techniques that work best for you. The best way you can reduce stress in the moment and rapidly is by engaging one of your senses such as sight, smell, sound, taste, or touch. People respond differently to sensory input, so you have to find the ones that are soothing or energizing to you. If you're a visual person, you might try surrounding yourself with uplifting photos, or if you respond to sound, you might want to try a wind chime to reduce stress levels. Each person is different, so you have to explore your needs emotionally in order to figure out what will work best for you.

## **Develop Emotional Awareness**

When you are able to connect to your emotions and have a moment-to-moment awareness of what those emotions are and how they're affecting your thoughts and actions, you are able to understand yourself and remain calm and focused in a tense situation with someone else.

There are many of us who are disconnected from our emotions, especially the core ones such as sadness, anger, joy, and fear. This can be a result of a negative childhood event that taught us keep our emotions hidden and to shut them off. We may be able to deny, distort, and numb our feelings, but we cannot seem to eliminate them, so we must know how to deal with them. They're still present in our everyday lives and without emotional awareness, we cannot understand our motivations and needs, or communicate them with others. We're at a far greater risk of becoming overwhelmed in a situation that may appear threatening.

In order to understand your emotions, you must first identify with kind of relationship you have with them.

- Do you have feelings that flow, coming across one emotion to the next as your experiences change throughout the day?
- Are your emotions coupled with physical sensations that you experience in areas such as your chest or stomach?
- Do you experience discrete emotions and feelings like sadness, anger, joy, and fear with subtle facial expressions?
- Do you experience intense emotions that capture both the attention of

others and your attention?

- Do you ignore your emotions or do they play a role in your decision-making process?

If you do not experience any of these, then you may have tamped down or turned off your emotions. If you want to become emotionally intelligent and healthy, then you have to reconnect to those core emotions and accept them, even become comfortable with them.

When developing emotional awareness, you first have to learn how to deal with stress. If you haven't learned how to manage that, then you won't be able to control any of your emotions or even acknowledge them.

## **Nonverbal Communication**

Not only do we need excellent communication skills verbally, but we also need nonverbal communication skills in order to manage our stress and recognize the stress of others. Remember that what you're saying is usually less important than how you're saying it, and the other nonverbal gestures you make, how you're sitting, how fast or loud you're talking, how close you're standing, or the amount of eye contact you're making with the other person all tell them how you're feeling, as well as how they're feeling.

If you want to hold the attention and build a connection with others, then you have to be aware of your nonverbal communication or body language. You have to be able to easily read and respond to their nonverbal cues, too.

Even when we're silent, we have the capability of still sending communication to another person. Think about what you're transmitting, as well as what you're feeling from that person. If you clench your teeth and tell someone you're okay or fine, they're going to know that you're not fine or okay. Our nonverbal messages can transmit trust, interest, desire, and excitement or confusion, distrust, fear, and disinterest.

So how can you improve your nonverbal communication?

Well, when you're communicating nonverbally in a successful manner, you're able to manage your stress and recognize the emotions you're feeling, as well as understand the signals you send and receive to and from others. When you're communicating with someone else:

- Focus on that person. If you're not completely focused on that person and instead thinking about what you're going to say or if you're

daydreaming, then you will miss many nonverbal cues in your conversation.

- Make eye contact. This communicates interest, and helps maintain the flow of a conversation. It also helps you gauge the other person's response.
- Pay attention to nonverbal cues. Are you sending mixed facial expressions or perhaps using a tone of voice that's completely different than what you want the other person to gather from the situation? Pay attention to your posture and your touch, as well as your gestures. What is the timing and the pace of the conversation? All of these are very important.

## **Use Humor**

Laughter and humor are all natural antidotes to life's daily stress because they lighten up our burdens and help us keep things in perspective. A natural, hearty laugh can reduce your stress levels, elevate your mood, and bring your nervous system into balance.

When you playfully communicate, you:

- Take hardships in stride. You are able to view your frustrations and disappointments from a new perspective and you can survive some everyday annoyances. Laughter also helps you survive the hard times and the setbacks. That's why you see people who are trying to make others laugh after a funeral or after a particularly bad argument. They're attempting to 'lighten the mood'.
- Smooth over differences. We're all different and that means we all have different opinions. Rather than let these opinions and differences upset us, we should use laughter to help us say things that might be difficult to express without causing a fight.
- Simultaneously relax and energize. Communicating in a playful manner helps us relieve fatigue and relax our bodies, allowing us to recharge and accomplish more.
- Become more creative. Laughter helps us loosen up and free ourselves from rigid ways of thinking and being. This allows us to become more creative and see things in a new way.

So how do you develop playful communication?

- Set aside some regular, quality playtime such as joking, playing or

laughing. The more you do it, the easier it becomes.

- Find activities that are enjoyable that loosen you up and help you to embrace that playful side of yourself.
- Practice with babies, animals, young children, and outgoing people who enjoy playful banter themselves.

## **Resolve Conflict in a Positive Manner**

Disagreements and arguments happen in every relationship because two people never have the same opinions, needs, and expectations at the same time. That doesn't have to be a bad thing, though. Resolving your conflicts in a healthy way strengthens the trust between two people because when it's not perceived as a threatening or punishing event, it grows creativity, freedom, and safety.

Managing conflict in a positive, trust-building way is supported by the previous four skills. When you know how to manage stress, become emotionally present and aware, communicate in a nonverbal manner, and use humor and play to distress a situation, you're more equipped to handle an emotionally charged event and defuse many issues before they even escalate.

Here are a few ways you can start resolving conflicts in a trust-building way:

- Stay focused on the present. When you're letting go of old hurts and resentments, you're able to recognize the reality of a current situation and view it in a different light. You view it as a new opportunity to resolve old feelings about conflicts.
- Choose your arguments. Arguments waste a lot of time and energy, especially if they're not resolved in a positive way. Consider what you really believe is worth arguing about and what isn't.
- Forgive. It's a lot easier said than done, I know, but forgiveness is not only for the one who hurt you, but for you. Stop looking to punish or seek revenge on those who hurt you because it's only going to take away from your life.
- End the conflicts that aren't able to be resolved. It takes two in order to be in love, and it takes two for an argument to continue. You are able to step away from an argument and disengage yourself, even if you do not agree with the other person. Sometimes it's just not something that can be resolved right away.

## **Observation**

You should observe how you're reacting to people. Do you rush to judging them

before you know all the facts? Are you someone who sees stereotypes? Be honest about how you think and react to others, and try putting yourself in their place. Be more open about their perspectives and their needs.

### **Work Environment**

Do you always seek out attention for accomplishments? Humility is an excellent quality of those who have emotional intelligence. They don't need reassurance from others that they are doing the right thing. It doesn't mean that you lack self-confidence or are shy if you don't want too much recognition. It just means that you realize you're not the most important person on this planet. It's best to give others a chance to shine and focus on them, and stop worrying so much about obtaining praise yourself.

### **Self-Evaluation**

Know your weaknesses and accept that you're not a perfect person, and that you are able to work on some of those areas in your life in order to be a better person. Be honest about this with yourself because it can really change your life.

### **Examine your Reactions**

How do you react in a stressful situation? Are you upset and angry every time something doesn't go your way? Do you blame others or show anger toward them when it's not their fault? Your ability to stay calm and in control during a difficult situation is valued in both the business world and outside of it. Keep your emotions under control and learn how to reduce stress in the moment.

### **Take Responsibility**

When you take responsibility for your actions and apologize to someone directly when you've hurt their feelings or done something wrong, they are more likely to move on and make things right. Be honest with them and sincere about your apology, or it will come across as flat and unwelcoming.

### **Examine Your Effect on Others**

Before you even take an action, examine in your mind how that action will affect those around you. If your decision is going to impact someone else, put yourself in their place. How are they going to feel about this action? Would you want to experience what they're going to experience? If you have to take the action, how can you help them deal with the effects?

### Supportive Relationships

It doesn't matter how much time and effort you put into improving your emotional and mental health, you still need others company in order to feel your best. Humans are social and have an emotional need for relationships and a positive connection with someone else. We are not meant to thrive in isolation. We have a social brain that craves companionship, even if the experience for us is shy and distrustful.

When you socially interact with others, you can reduce your stress levels. The key is to find a relationship with someone who is a good listener and supportive of you. You need someone who you can talk to on a regular basis, face-to-face, who will listen to you without having an agenda or telling you how you ought to think or feel. A good listener listens to the emotions behind the words and doesn't interrupt or criticize the other person. The best way to find a good listener is to be one yourself.

Here are a few tips you can use in order to connect with others:

- Get away from the television or the computer screen. These instruments have their place in our lives, but they do not have the same effect as a real expression of interest or a reassuring touch. Communication is a nonverbal experience that requires being in direct contact with others, so never neglect real world interactions.
- Spend time with people you like on a daily basis, face-to-face. Spending time with others that you enjoy helps you relax and get rid of stress. Make time for friends, colleagues, neighbors, and family members that are positive, upbeat and interested in what you're doing. Take time to inquire about the people you meet on a daily basis.
- Volunteer. Not only does volunteering have a positive effect on how you feel about yourself, it has a beneficial effect on the others around you. The meaning and purpose you will find in helping out others will help you feel enriched and expand your horizons. There are no limits when it comes to volunteering. You can volunteer at schools, nonprofits, charitable organizations, churches, and animal shelters.
- Be a joiner. Join in on social action, networking, conversation, and interest groups that meet on a regular basis. This offers wonderful opportunities for you to find others with common interests who could be potential friends.





## Chapter 7:

# Emotional Intelligence and Personal Relationships

In order to have the best kind of relationships in your life, you need emotional intelligence. In the past chapters you learned what emotional intelligence is and in general how it can be applied. In this chapter, you will learn specifically how you can apply it to benefit the relationships that you have in your personal life.

I am going to start broadly and talk about extended family. First, you will learn how to use emotional intelligence to take control of relationships with people you may not see as often. So, have you been having trouble with your relationship with, for example, your grandmother or mother? Or are you having trouble relating to your brother-in-law or brother who lives across the country – or maybe even across the world? How can you start to mend these relationships so that you can finally have the kind of interaction with these people that you have dreamed of for so long?

Well, the answer is quite simple. It is emotional intelligence: with emotional intelligence you can take control of these family relationships, so that everyone will be happier. There is no need to continue living full of stress, worry, and feelings of sadness because these relationships just did not work out. If you want to get closer to these people in your life, now you can!

First, figure out what relationships in your life you would like to work on. Think about which relationships are leaving you feeling unhappy because they have not worked out. Figure out which relationships could help you to be a happier person if they were different. Then, act on your wish to mend these relationships. You can just start with one relationship if you do not want to take on too much at one time.

Next, start reaching out to the person that you want to build your relationship with. If you are already planning to see them, don't stress out or worry – even if this is what you normally do. When you see them, or when you talk to them over the phone, try to gauge their emotions. Try to be aware of what they are feeling,

and how they are reacting to what you are saying to them – even to just seeing you in general. Your words, actions, and reactions should all depend on how you see them behaving. The way they behave is a great way to tell what they are feeling inside. If you are experienced at reading people's emotions, you will be able to easily figure out how they are feeling and then use this knowledge to both of your benefits. They will benefit from your emotional intelligence as well. Since you are using emotional intelligence, you will be less likely to have a misunderstanding, or say something to them that they will interpret in the wrong way. And, even better, you will be more likely to meet and talk again soon. With emotional intelligence, you are well on your way to building a stronger, healthier relationship with this family member – even if you feel like you don't know them that well because you don't see them every day (or even every year).

The truth is that extended family relationships can be hard to maintain for these very reasons – you just don't know them as well as your other family members. For this reason, it is especially important that all your attention and focus in on them during those few hours each month, or maybe each year, that you get to spend with them. In our busy lives, it is far too often that our attention is elsewhere – making it possible to use emotional intelligence in these situations.

You need to fully focus on the person you are talking to and spending time with, so that you can make up for lost time. Maybe there is something that has happened in their lives since you have last seen them that you don't even know about. Well, the truth is that maybe you are never going to find out about it. Or, at least you are not going to find about all of the details that the people closer to this person know. However, that doesn't mean that you can't read and figure out generalizations about what has gone on from their face, their voice, and their actions – and sometimes, to be honest, that is all you need to know. With this knowledge, you can better understand their actions. It will help you not to lash out at them if you understand the motives for their behavior or harsh words. And it will help you to treat them the way you yourself would want to be treated if you were in their situation – to say the things that will help them through whatever it is that they are going through.

Next, let's think about the relationships with the people you see every day. These relationships encounter plenty of problems of their own. You can build back up a broken relationship by trying to understand what the other person is feeling, and by using this knowledge to interact with them accordingly. For example, take someone who is always fighting with their spouse. In this case, it

may be that the two people are not reading each other's emotions correctly. In order to mend the situation, a good first step would be for them to pay attention to the other person's emotions.

In all family relationships, you may have to assess the situation and see if you are focusing on yourself too much. Perhaps you are just wrapped up in worry about your own problems. Or maybe you are worried about what other people think about you. The truth is that in order to have better relationships with these people, you will have to stop focusing on yourself and start focusing on them. You can focus on yourself and them – the interactions you are having together. This will make it harder to misread their face or voice, which is exactly what you want. You want to be able to read them correctly so you know how to act around them and how to talk with them.

Taking control of the personal relationships in your life is all about helping relationships to work so that you can be happy again. It is all about taking your thoughts about what you want the relationships in your life to be like – and making these hopes and dreams become a reality. With a higher emotional intelligence, you can do this easily. In fact, you probably won't believe how easy it is with emotional intelligence.

Right now, you might be thinking that there are other relationships in your life as well – so what about those? These relationships are very different from the relationships that you have with your family. Probably the other largest category of relationships, the one that most people can relate to, are the relationships you have with the people you work with. These professional relationships can be difficult as well – especially if you are in a tough work situation, or a job that you don't really like. But no matter what, knowing how to take control of these professional relationships is very important. In the next chapter, you will learn how emotional intelligence can help you with this.

## Chapter 8:

# Emotional Intelligence and Professional Relationships

Now you are going to learn how a higher emotional intelligence can help your relationships with your boss and your coworkers. First, let's talk about your boss or supervisor at work. This relationship is obviously very important – and one that you don't want to mess up. Sometimes, this relationship can be very hard – you are trying to act the right way, but one little mistake can send you worrying that your job might be on the line.

So, to prevent this excess worrying, you will need to acquire some emotional intelligence. If you can tell what your boss is thinking and feeling, then even if they aren't saying it you will have a better idea of what is happening. This will prevent you from thinking you are getting fired when in reality they are just having a bad day. It is important to understand people's emotions because these emotions will show in their faces – and you don't want to jump to the wrong conclusion that these emotions are because of you.

Emotional intelligence is all about focusing on what is going on around you – in specific the other people around you and anything about them that could tell you how they are feeling. This is very important in the work situation – there are a lot of people and your ability to interact with them may mean the difference between keeping the job you love and losing it. So how can having more emotional intelligence help you to successfully interact with your coworkers in a way that is both productive and right for the specific job situation you are in? Well, there are so many ways which emotional intelligence can help you interact with coworkers. If you are working as a group with other employees, it is time to make sure you are using your emotional intelligence to the best of your abilities – because you are definitely going to need it.

Prior to this we have basically been talking about relationships where only two people are involved. Now, in the workplace, we are talking about social situations where you are required to work with multiple people – whether this

means several people or a whole group. So, what does this mean in terms of using emotional intelligence? Well, unfortunately this means that it is going to be much harder. The reason you will likely find it more difficult is that you simply have more people around you, which means you have more emotions and feelings to try to gauge to the best of your ability.

This just means that it is even more important than before to practice mindfulness and to learn to come to the workplace completely stress-free. If you are not stressed, it will be so much easier to use your emotional intelligence when you are in a group of people. You also need to completely focus on what is going on around you in order to practice emotional intelligence around more than one person. If you have developed these skills which were outlined earlier in the book, it will make it so much easier to work with others. Working with others requires that you understand their emotions because if you can't you either won't know how to interact with them, or, more likely, you will interact with them in the wrong way.

If someone is having a bad day, or something has just happened in your life, then you will need to adjust the way you talk to them accordingly. The failure to do this can result in difficulty working as a group, arguments, or even a fight. However, if you can do this, then the group will work so much more smoothly. Everything will go smoothly because you all are taking the time to understand each other, and to tailor interactions to each specific person depending on the way that person is interacting with you. It is important to be able to look at a person and decide quickly how you should interact with them to achieve the results you want – which in this case is harmony throughout the group which will allow you all to work together and get the job done.

If you are a supervisor at work, whether you are just supervising a small group for a simple project or a larger number of people for a long time, then emotional intelligence is especially important. Without emotional intelligence, how will you ensure that everything with the group is running smoothly? You will get so much work done if you have higher emotional intelligence. Remember, if you don't feel like you currently have a high emotional intelligence, there is no need to fret. Earlier in this book tips were given for how to successfully develop your emotional intelligence. So no matter how lacking you feel that you are in this area, these tips will be just the help that you need. Follow them to have more

emotional intelligence in no time – and all the relationships in your life will benefit from it.

In this chapter you learned some tips for using emotional intelligence to help you navigate the difficulties of the workplace. In the last chapter, you learned about using emotional intelligence when at home for the benefit of the relationships that you have there. Now, in the last chapter of the book, we will be talking about emotional intelligence and social skills in general. You will learn how to use your emotional intelligence to have better social skills. So, do you feel that your social skills could use improvement? Well, if you do, then this will be an important section for you. Emotional intelligence will help you to interact with all types of people better.

## Chapter 9:

# Emotional Intelligence and Social Skills

In the last chapters you have been learning about how to interact with people you know – whether that means close family members or at least people you know of and have seen before. However, that seems to give the impression that emotional intelligence can only be beneficial to relationships you have with people that you already know – however well you may know them. The truth is that emotional intelligence can actually help with any social interaction – even if you don't have an actual relationship with the person and never will. What do I mean by this? Well, let's give some quick examples from everyday life that most people can probably relate to.

If you are, for example, at the store and interacting with a stranger, then emotional intelligence can help. If you are going to see a doctor, emotional intelligence can help. Emotional intelligence can help with all social interactions that you have with anyone, anywhere. If you have emotional intelligence, you can use it to develop your social skills.

So, in what way are you looking to develop your social skills? Are you hoping to have an easier time deciding how to interact with a specific person or type of person? Do you want new social situations to be smoother for you – you want to minimize worrying about them even though they are something you have never experienced before? Or do you want to know what to say in difficult social situations when it seems there are just no words? Well, emotional intelligence can help you in all of these situations.

With emotional intelligence, you will know what to say and how to behave – no matter how foreign the situation is. You will know how to interact with different types of people – and how to decide to interact with someone that you are about to meet. You will also know how to stop worrying about new situations and experiences. How can emotional intelligence help with all of this? Well, it really

is simple. As you have already learned, emotional intelligence helps you to tell what other people's emotions are. And in all of these situations, what you really need is to be able to know what the other person is feeling. If you know this, then the interaction will come so much more naturally. Emotional intelligence truly is a wonderful skill to have in these situations!

So, let's start with the first situation and elaborate just a little so that you can get a better idea of this. Is there a specific person that you are having trouble knowing how to interact with? If this is the case, then you can stop worrying about it. Simply use your emotional intelligence when you are in a situation with this person. Try to read their emotions, and interact accordingly. With emotional intelligence, even if you have never met this person before the interaction will still be smooth. Even if you don't get along with this specific type of person, with emotional intelligence, you will be able to make things go better than they normally would. Try to understand them, and think about where they are coming from. Forget everything else you are thinking about, and focus your attention on them, and how you think it would be best to interact with them. This will be sure to help turn an uncomfortable situation into a much more comfortable one.

Next, are you worrying about a social situation because it is new and different? Emotional intelligence will help you to get through even the newest of situations. It is all about being able to learn about the people you are with, even if you have never met them. How do you use emotional intelligence to learn about them? Well, you need to try to read their emotions. Emotions can be deducted based on how they are speaking, how they look (happy, sad, uncomfortable, nervous) and so much more. If you look closely enough, you can learn about someone you have never met. It is definitely possible – you just have to be focused and you have to be living in the present moment.

Now, let's talk a little about the last scenario that was posed as a question above. This scenario involves difficult social situations when it seems there are no words to say. In a situation like this, it will be extremely important to try to figure out the other person's emotions. Then, you will know what to say based on how they seem to be feeling. All in all, emotional intelligence can really help you with social interaction in so many ways. These were only three examples –



there are so many more ways that it can help you. So, this is just another reason to learn how to develop your emotional intelligence.

## Conclusion

Being aware of your emotional intelligence levels allows you to branch out further and start educating yourself and practicing with the different techniques that were provided to you in this eBook. Remember that emotional intelligence has nothing to do with your IQ, but it does have everything to do with how people will perceive you and how you will feel about yourself.

Those who have a high emotional intelligence are able to be successful in their personal and business relationships because they are able to understand their spouses, children, and coworkers on a much better level. Just with a few facial expressions, we can convey whether we're sad or happy or if we're just feeling bored. When you're able to read someone's emotions, you'll be able to gauge their reaction to what you're about to say much easier. This could save you a lot of grief and hassle in the future.

So now that you have learned all about emotional intelligence and social skills, emotional intelligence and relationships, how to apply emotional intelligence, and of course, most importantly, how to develop it, the next step is to start putting it into practice in your everyday life. Emotional intelligence can help you greatly in so many situations. No matter how hard a situation may seem, with emotional intelligence it will be easier to get through. Take what you have learned from this book and use it to start living a better life today. It is not hard, and it will definitely be very rewarding!

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