

Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale (DERS)

Please indicate how often the following statements apply to you by writing the appropriate number from the scale below on the line beside each item.

1-----2-----3-----4-----5
almost never sometimes about half the time most of the time almost always
(0-10%) (11-35%) (36-65%) (66-90%) (91-100%)

- 1) I am clear about my feelings.
- 2) I pay attention to how I feel.
- 3) I experience my emotions as overwhelming and out of control.
- 4) I have no idea how I am feeling.
- 5) I have difficulty making sense out of my feelings.
- 6) I am attentive to my feelings.
- 7) I know exactly how I am feeling.
- 8) I care about what I am feeling.
- 9) I am confused about how I feel.
- 10) When I'm upset, I acknowledge my emotions.
- 11) When I'm upset, I become angry with myself for feeling that way.
- 12) When I'm upset, I become embarrassed for feeling that way.
- 13) When I'm upset, I have difficulty getting work done.
- 14) When I'm upset, I become out of control.
- 15) When I'm upset, I believe that I will remain that way for a long time.
- 16) When I'm upset, I believe that I will end up feeling very depressed.
- 17) When I'm upset, I believe that my feelings are valid and important.
- 18) When I'm upset, I have difficulty focusing on other things.
- 19) When I'm upset, I feel out of control.
- 20) When I'm upset, I can still get things done.
- 21) When I'm upset, I feel ashamed at myself for feeling that way.
- 22) When I'm upset, I know that I can find a way to eventually feel better.
- 23) When I'm upset, I feel like I am weak.
- 24) When I'm upset, I feel like I can remain in control of my behaviors.
- 25) When I'm upset, I feel guilty for feeling that way.
- 26) When I'm upset, I have difficulty concentrating.
- 27) When I'm upset, I have difficulty controlling my behaviors.
- 28) When I'm upset, I believe there is nothing I can do to make myself feel better.
- 29) When I'm upset, I become irritated at myself for feeling that way.
- 30) When I'm upset, I start to feel very bad about myself.
- 31) When I'm upset, I believe that wallowing in it is all I can do.
- 32) When I'm upset, I lose control over my behavior.
- 33) When I'm upset, I have difficulty thinking about anything else.
- 34) When I'm upset I take time to figure out what I'm really feeling.
- 35) When I'm upset, it takes me a long time to feel better.
- 36) When I'm upset, my emotions feel overwhelming.

Reverse-scored items (place a subtraction sign in front of them) are numbered 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 10, 17, 20, 22, 24 and 34.

Calculate total score by adding everything up. Higher scores suggest greater problems with emotion regulation.

SUBSCALE SCORING:** The measure yields a total score (SUM) as well as scores on six sub-scales:

1. Nonacceptance of emotional responses (NONACCEPT): 11, 12, 21, 23, 25, 29
2. Difficulty engaging in Goal-directed behavior (GOALS): 13, 18, 20R, 26, 33
3. Impulse control difficulties (IMPULSE): 3, 14, 19, 24R, 27, 32
4. Lack of emotional awareness (AWARENESS): 2R, 6R, 8R, 10R, 17R, 34R
5. Limited access to emotion regulation strategies (STRATEGIES): 15, 16, 22R, 28, 30, 31, 35, 36
6. Lack of emotional clarity (CLARITY): 1R, 4, 5, 7R, 9

Total score: sum of all subscales

**"R" indicates reverse scored item

REFERENCE:

Gratz, K. L. & Roemer, L. (2004). Multidimensional assessment of emotion regulation and dysregulation: Development, factor structure, and initial validation of the Difficulties in Emotion Regulation Scale. *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*, 26, 41-54.