

H2-2 Relaxation Technique: Imagery

Instructions

This technique uses a script that you (or a friend or family member with a soothing voice) can record. Playing the tape back will help you learn the technique. It is best to record your tape in a quiet room, reading the script slowly and carefully. Use a warm and encouraging voice and include pauses between each sentence and paragraph of the script. Your final tape should be about 15–20 minutes long.

When you are ready to use your tape, remember that the technique will work best if you are in a comfortable position (sitting or lying down) in a place where you won't be disturbed. Dim the light and loosen any tight clothing so you can breathe deeply and relax completely.

Script

Relax. . . . Close your eyes. . . . Let your worries and thoughts drift away. You are breathing slowly in . . . and out. . . .

Relax. . . .

You are going to use your ability to visualize . . . to daydream . . . to make pictures in your mind's eye. . . . Let your worries and thoughts drift away. Your imaging will be clearest when your mind is free of thoughts and worries and concerns. . . . If distracting thoughts or doubts about this process come into your mind, let them float away like small clouds in a blue sky. . . .

Relax. . . . You are breathing slowly in . . . and out. . . . Relax. . . . Imagine yourself someplace that you love . . . or where you'd like to be . . . somewhere outdoors that feels quiet and personal . . . a calm place, a quiet beach, or a wood, or a valley. . . . Take a deep breath, imagine the beautiful, clear air . . . and the warmth of sunlight . . . and a cool breeze. . . .

Imagine yourself sitting down . . . and breathing deeply in . . . and out . . . so calm . . . and so peaceful. . . . Perhaps you can hear birds . . . or waves lapping on the sand . . . or a river running nearby. . . . Perhaps you can smell the flowers. . . . Take another deep breath . . . and relax.

Look around you . . . what do you see? This beautiful place . . . the calm weather . . . trees, perhaps . . . their leaves moving in the breeze . . . or the waves gently breaking . . . a few small clouds . . . a flight of geese overhead . . . the deep blue of the sky . . . the rich browns and wonderful fresh greens of the earth. . . .

Imagine closing your eyes and just listening . . . feeling the peacefulness . . . the restfulness of the place. . . . You can imagine yourself lying down in a comfortable position . . . and letting go of your worries and tensions . . . and relaxing. . . . Imagine the warmth of the sun . . . and the cool breeze playing on your face . . . as you relax . . . and breath quietly in . . . and out. . . .

Listen to the quiet sounds around you . . . feel the sun on your skin, warming you, soothing away all tensions and cares . . . feel the breeze playing on your skin. . . . This place is so restful, so full of peace. . . . Let the faint smells and sounds of this marvelous place gently relax you. . . .

And breathe in . . . and out. . . . You can hear water in the distance . . . the weather is just perfect . . . as you relax . . . and breathe in . . . and out. . . . Your mind is still. . . . If you have any last thoughts or worries, watch them float away like small clouds in a calm, blue sky. . . . You are at peace . . . you are completely at peace. . . .

Relax and enjoy the sunlight and the breeze. . . . Relax. . . . Breathe gently and deeply . . . and relax. . . . Your body is rested and at peace. . . . You are drawing strength and energy from the sunlight. . . . As you breathe in, the energy fills you . . . your lungs are filled with oxygen . . . nourishing and healing energy . . . and peace. . . . Your body feels refreshed and energized. . . .

Take one more deep breath in . . . and relax. . . . You feel refreshed and ready . . . ready to bring this relaxed, energized feeling back with you into your everyday life. . . . One more deep breath . . . and you're ready. . . . Open your eyes gently, and stretch. . . . Take a deep breath. . . .