Science-backed resources to transform your health

# The Health HABIT Downloads





## The Habit Heroes

Amantha

Dr. Amantha Imber



### Make it desirable

#### Overcoming Motivational Hijackers



#### Motivational Habit 1: Bundle a temptation

Combine the unpleasurable behaviour you want to do more of with an activity that brings you joy.



#### Motivational Habit 2: The uncomfortable advantage

When adopting your new Health Habit, identify any negative thoughts and emotions that arise. Reframe the discomfort as a sign of growth and progress.



#### **Motivational Habit 3: The game changer**

Turn your Health Habit goal into a challenge or competition. Ensure that your game has a scoring system and an associated reward.



#### **Motivational Habit 4: Streak board mastery**

Track your new health habit using a streak board - a visual representation of completing a task or activity every day.



#### **Motivational Habit 5: The why factor**

When faced with challenges, shift your focus from immediate needs to the bigger purpose behind your health goals.



#### Motivational Habit 6: Question-powered self-talk

If you are trying to break a habit, start your day by asking, What will I not do today?. If you are trying to start a new habit, instead of stating what you want to do, frame it as a question, such as, Will I eat fermented foods today?



#### **Motivational Habit 7: Fine yourself**

Make yourself pay a fine when you fail to stick to your health habit.



## Make it social

#### Overcoming Relational Hijackers



#### Relational Habit Hero 1: The public pledge

Announce your health habit goal publicly, for all, or at least some, to see.



#### Relational Habit Hero 2: The buddy system

Find an accountability buddy and share your goals with them.



#### Relational Habit Hero 3: Guide and grow

Offer health advice and explain the science of your habit change to someone who may find it beneficial.



#### Relational Habit Hero 4: The prosocial approach

Reflect on the positive impact of adopting healthier habits on yourself and others, versus the consequences of not changing.



#### Relational Habit Hero 5: Curate your feed

Change your social media feed to include people who are engaging in the types of behaviours you are trying to adopt in your own life.



## Make it natural

#### Overcoming Environmental Hijackers



#### **Environmental Habit Hero 1: Disrupt the default**

Design an intervention for yourself that will shift the default choice to the behaviour you want.



#### **Environmental Habit Hero 2: A timely reminder**

Set yourself a reminder (e.g. on your phone) to engage in your health habit so you don't forget.)



#### **Environmental Habit Hero 3: Position power**

For habits involving more consumption or activity, keep relevant objects easily accessible; for reducing behaviours or consumption, place such items out of easy reach.



#### **Environmental Habit Hero 4: Create some friction**

Put a physical barrier in the way that makes it hard or unpleasant to do the behaviour you are trying to stop doing.



#### **Environmental Habit Hero 5: Break down the barriers**

Change your external environment to make it easy to do the behaviour you want to do.



#### **Environmental Habit Hero 6:**

#### Set an implementation intention

Think about a cue that would present a good opportunity to engage in your health habit. Write your implementation intention as an if-then statement: if X happens, then I will do Y.



#### **Environmental Habit Hero 7:**

#### Create a cue-based plan

Create a cue-based plan by linking a daily, natural occurrence as a trigger to initiate your desired behaviour: When X happens, I will do Y.



## Make it easy

#### Overcoming Cognitive Hijackers



#### Cognitive Habit Hero 1: Make a fresh start

Identify an upcoming date (e.g. the start of the month or week) or event (e.g. moving house) that represents a good opportunity to act as a fresh start. Begin your Health Habit on this date.



#### Cognitive Habit Hero 2: Recreate your identity

Visualise and describe your future self following months of your health habit, and congratulate yourself for behaviours that align with this new identity.



#### **Cognitive Habit Hero 3: Harness hall passes**

Set a month-long goal for your health habit with a 'hall pass' to miss it twice weekly, marking or acknowledging missed days as 'hall pass' days.)



#### Cognitive Habit Hero 4: The power of don't

Develop a 'don't' self-talk phrase, like 'I don't use my phone in bed', to resist temptations and respond to questions about the behaviour you're avoiding.



#### Cognitive Habit Hero 5: The 'some other time' approach

When you feel the urge to engage in a behaviour that is counter to your Health Habit, tell yourself that you will do it 'some other time'.

# Questions? I love answering those.

#### **Let's Connect:**

Contact me amantha@inventium.com.au

#### **Need more info?**

Visit my website amantha.com



Amantha