



A Sampling of Recovery International (RI) Tools and Terms

A purpose for using a Tool List is to enable newcomers to more easily and rapidly participate in a Recovery meeting. With this in mind Recovery International encourages you to use this list when you initially attend our meetings, until you feel comfortable without it. Your Group Leader may have other guidelines for you regarding the use of this list in meetings. We are glad that you are here and encourage you to participate and endorse for your participation! These tools are quoted or adapted from Dr. Low's books: Mental Health Through Will Training (MH), Selections from Dr. Low's Works (SEL) and Manage Your Fears, Manage Your Anger (MYF). Citations to Dr. Low's books are listed for each tool. Many other tools can be found in these books.

Some Basic RI Tools

- Treat mental health as a business and not as a game.....MH ch.25
- Humor is our best friend, temper is our worst enemy.....MH p.108
- If you can't change a situation you can change your attitude towards it...MYF p.108, Sel. p.31-32
- Be self-led, not symptom-led.MYF p.114-118, 280-283
- Symptoms are distressing but not dangerous..... SEL p.53, MH p.115, 119
- Temper is an intellectual blindness to the other side of the story.....MH p.159
- Comfort is a want, not a need.MH chs.13, 22
- There is no right or wrong in the trivialities of every day life.....SEL p.39, MH p.157, 195-196
- Calm begets calm, temper begets temper.....MYF p.245, SEL p.31
- Don't take our own dear selves too seriously.....MH p.109
- Feelings should be expressed and temper suppressed.....MH p.178
- Helplessness is not hopelessness.....MH ch.7, MYF p.184
- Some people have a passion for self-distrust.....MH ch.29 & MYF Lecture 2
- Temper maintains and intensifies symptoms.....MH p. 219
- Do things in part acts.....MH p.246-249
- Endorse yourself for the effort, not only for the performance.....MYF p.13, SEL p.46, 132
- Have the courage to make a mistake.....MH p.203, ch.30, MYF p.60, SEL p.108
- Feelings are not facts.....MH ch.9, MYF Lecture 14
- Do the things you fear and hate to do.....MH p. 329-330, MYF p.197
- Fear is a belief — beliefs can be changed.....MYF p.266-269
- Every act of self-control leads to a sense of self-respect.....MH p.166
- Decide, plan and act.MH p.42
- Any decision will steady you.....MYF p.5
- Anticipation is often worse than realization.....MH p.114-115, 146
- Replace an insecure thought with a secure thought.....MYF Lecture 1
- Bear the discomfort in order to gain comfort.....MH p.149
- Hurt feelings are just beliefs not shared.....SEL p.21
- Self-appointed expectations lead to self-induced frustrations.....SEL p.35
- People do things *that* annoy us, not necessarily *to* annoy us.....MH ch.48
- Knowledge teaches you what to do, practice tells you how to do it.....SEL p.118
- Muscles can be commanded to do what one fears to do.....SEL p.123
- Tempers are frequently uncontrolled, but not uncontrollable.....MH p.392

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Some Basic Recovery International Terms

Angry Temper — *negative judgments* (resentment, impatience, indignation, disgust, hatred) *directed against another person or situation.*

Fearful Temper — *negative judgments* (discouragement, preoccupation, embarrassment, worry, hopelessness, despair, sense of shame, feelings of inadequacy) *directed against oneself.*

Averageness — typical, normal, unexceptional. Nervous symptoms are average — they are universal to human beings. Situations are average — the same event has happened to someone else. Most people are average — somewhere between the two extremes of inferior and superior.

Endorsement — self-praise for any effort. Pat yourself on the back for the effort you are putting forth, not only for the results of what you do.

Sabotage — when you are able and prepared, *but not willing*, to put your knowledge into practice; when you do the opposite of what is good for you.

Triviality — an everyday event. Compare the importance of what is happening around you against the importance of the peace you are striving for; consider anything and everything that upsets you from the perspective that your inner harmony is of prime importance; mental fitness comes first.

Inner Environment — everything *inside* your self: feelings, sensations, thoughts, impulses and muscles.

Outer Environment — everything *outside* your self: places, people, events, the past.

Spotting — identifying a disturbing feeling, sensation, thought or impulse, previously unseen...then applying the right Recovery tools.

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