



This document is interactive but can also be printed and put on the fridge or noticeboard as a daily reminder, so don't forget to save as you go along.





12-week **Activity Programme** and Tracker



WELCOME TO

LET'S MITH LEON

Thank you for signing up to our 12-week activity programme, with exercise specialist Leon Wormley.

Over the next 12 weeks, we're going to be sharing 30-minute video sessions to help you become more active, as well as setting you some activities to do each week in between the videos.

You can use this booklet to keep track of your goals and progress, and plan for the weeks ahead. We'll give you reminders of what was covered in the session, as well as tips and instructions for what we're calling your 'weekly activity dose'.

GETTING STARTED

In this video, we talked about getting started with the Let's Move with Leon programme.



Leon gave some tips on how to stay safe during exercise, as well as how to get prepared for the first session.

We also looked at the guidelines for exercise for adults over 19. Remember these guidelines are for a whole week, and you don't need to do it all in one go. Split it down into smaller chunks if it helps you to get started, and then you can gradually build up the amount you do.





WHY IS EXERCISE IMPORTANT IF YOU HAVE ARTHRITIS?

It's important to keep moving when you have arthritis to improve your symptoms, keep your muscles and bones strong, and to keep your joints supple.

A joint is where two or more bones meet, such as in the fingers, knees or shoulders. They're important in helping us move around, but sometimes arthritis can make this difficult.

Our joints hold our bones in place and allow them to move freely, but within safe limits. Muscles help us move around and support our joints to keep them stable. Moving helps maintain your range of movement and keeps all the parts of your joints strong.

YOUR CURRENT ACTIVITY

Leon covered some of the things you'll need to know before you start the programme, so below we've left some space for you to write down where you are now.



Use the space below to write down the exercise you do each week. This can be anything from doing the ironing, reaching and stretching while getting dressed, taking short walks, or doing a dance class every week. Is there anything that stops you from moving more?

This could be anything from feeling tired, having pain in your joints and muscles or not feeling like you have the time.



Write down anything that gets in the way of movement for you in the space below.

SHARE YOUR MOVEMENTS

Join our Facebook group for the programme.



Think of things that could make it easier to get over these barriers, and rewards you can give yourself each time you overcome them.

These rewards can be anything that helps you relax and feel good – this could be making time for yourself to have a bath, socialising with friends, sharing your achievements on the programme or simply smiling at yourself in the mirror.



Use the space below to write down things to make it easier and rewards you can give yourself.

HOW DOES EXERCISE MAKE YOU FEEL?

While you're doing the activities in the programme, you can record your pain levels as you go along by ticking the relevant box.

It's important that you don't do anything that puts you higher on this pain scale than level 4 – so make sure you remember this scale while doing some of the activities, and don't push yourself too much.



0 no pain

1-2 slight pain

3-4 mild pain

5-6 moderate pain

7-8 severe pain

9-10 horrible pain

SETTING YOUR GOALS

Why is moving more important to you?

People have lots of reasons for wanting to be more active, including:

- reducing pain, stiffness and fatigue
- wanting to start a new hobby
- improving mobility to do everyday tasks.

These goals can be anything from being able to reach your feet to tie your shoelaces or having more energy to spend time with family and friends.



Use the space below to write down what you want to get out of the programme – make sure it's something that's important to you, and that you feel ready to work towards.

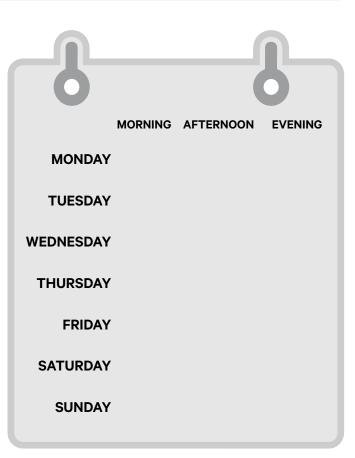
MAKING A PLAN

Use the calender opposite to tick off the times and days of the week you plan to complete your weekly activity dose.

This can be as often as you feel like, but make sure you allow yourself rest days if needed.

If you don't stick to the times above, don't worry. Be kind to yourself and try again the next time you feel up to it. Start small and build up gradually.

Try to work through the weeks in order, but you can go back and repeat previous weeks any time.



GETTING READY

Now you're ready for the first movement video in a few days.

Make sure you feel well enough – if not, take a rest day and try again when you feel better.

If you have severe pain while doing any of the exercises, stop. Remember that if there is something you don't feel able to do, you can just skip that part of the video. Speak to your doctor or another healthcare professional if you have any concerns.

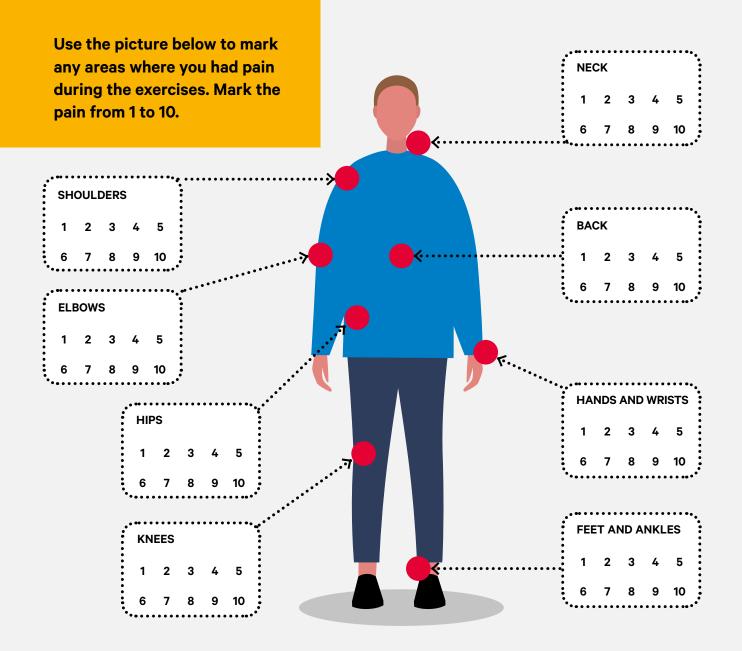


This week's session focused on improving mobility and posture, as well as how to keep an eye on your pain levels during exercise.



It's normal for your muscles to feel a bit sore after exercise, especially if you're not used to it. But you should stop if you have sudden or severe pain in your muscles or joints. Remember not to do anything that puts you above 4 on the pain scale.

If any of your joints are hot or swollen, cover them with an ice pack or a pack of frozen peas wrapped in a damp towel for 10 to 15 minutes.



This week's activity is to practice some of the exercises from the video that will help improve your range of movement.



Use this space to write down which exercises you picked and the box next to it how many times this week were you able to complete them.

Leon also asked you to try to reduce the time you spend sitting in one position to no more than 30 minutes at a time.

Try to get up and move around – going for a walk around the garden or even getting up to put the kettle on can help reduce your sedentary time.



POSTURE CHECK

Another task for this week was to complete a check of your posture every day.

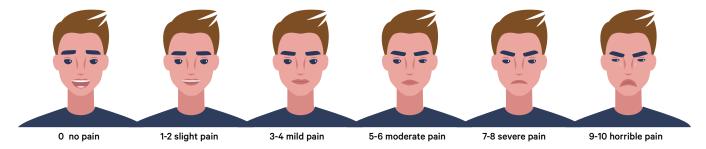
Leon showed you how to do this in the video. Use the checklist to tick off every day you do this.



HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember - you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





This week's video covered the foundational movements of daily life.

Watch the video:
www.versusarthritis.org/
movement-for-life

These movements are all important for our daily lives, and you probably do lots of them without realising – for example, picking up and carrying your shopping involves rotating and planking.

Have a think about other things you do each day that involve these movements.

Use the picture below to mark when you have done these movements.



If you like, you can share some examples of your daily movements on social media. This can be as a post or video of yourself doing some of the movements.



This week's activity is to redo the movement exercises from the video – you can repeat the video again in full, or just parts of it.



Use the space below to write down which exercises you did and how many times you did them.

HOW DID YOU DO?

Leon also wanted you to think about ways you do the following activities normally.

Make a note opposite of the things you were doing when you performed one of these foundational movements.

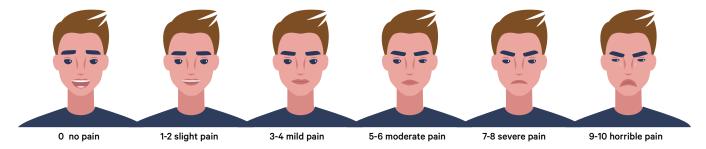




HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember - you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





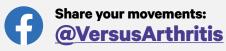
This week, we looked at the major muscle groups and joint areas, as well as figuring out your limits while completing exercises.

Most people take a while to learn how much exercise they can do, so don't feel put off if this happens to you.

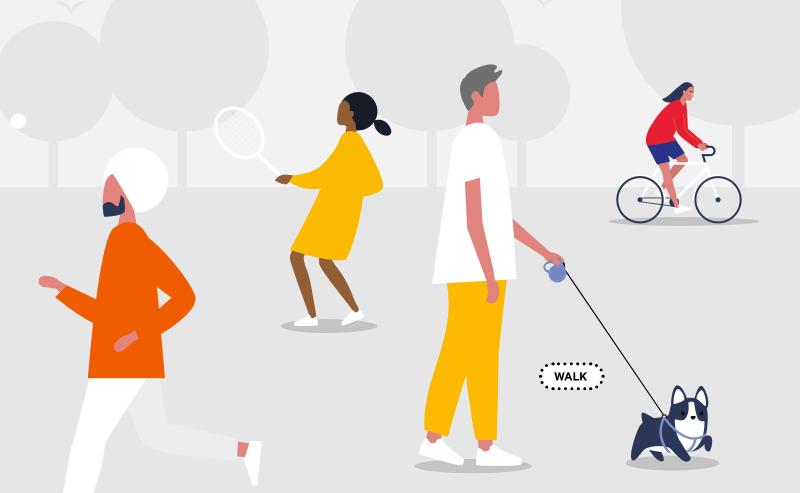
Watch the video: www.versusarthritis.org/ adaptation

After exercise, you should feel as if your muscles have done some work, but you shouldn't be exhausted or in lots more pain.

If you feel like you've overdone it, have a rest the following day and start again the day after, but don't do as much. Gradually increase it by a few minutes each day. If any of your joints are hot or swollen, cover them with an ice pack or a pack of frozen peas wrapped in a damp towel for 10–15 minutes.



What did your route look like? If you like, you can share it on social media. This can be as a post or video of yourself doing the walk.



What were your strengths and weaknesses in this week's session?



Use the space below to write down what you could do well and what you found harder. How did it feel?

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY

This week's activity is to pick a distance you can walk without stopping.

Try to walk this distance as many times as you can in six minutes – you can stop as many times as you need to during the six minutes.

If you like, you can share it on the Facebook group.





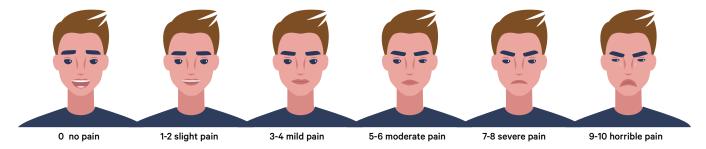


Make a note of how many times you completed it in the six minutes, how many times you stopped, and what made you stop.

HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember – you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





This week, we looked at strengthening the lower body.



This type of exercise is important to help you strengthen your muscles so they can support your joints.

There are lots of simple exercises you can do to improve your lower body strength, which is important for daily activities, such as going up and down stairs.

Remember to do strengthening exercises slowly.

If your joints are especially hot or swollen, leave the strengthening exercises until your joints settle down again.





This week's activity is to complete the lower body workout from the session during the week.



Use the space below to write down how you got on.

SIT-TO-STANDS

Leon also asked you to complete the sit-tostand challenge on at least three separate days. You can do this more if you feel like it, but don't do it more than once a day.

Start by sitting on a chair and, without using your hands for support, stand up and then sit back down. Do this as many times as you can in one minute. Make sure the chair is sturdy and will not slide as you do the challenge.

Write down how many times you were able to do this each day in the spaces opposite.



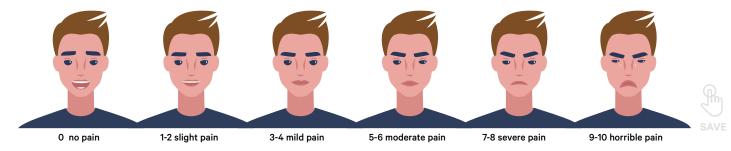




HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember – you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





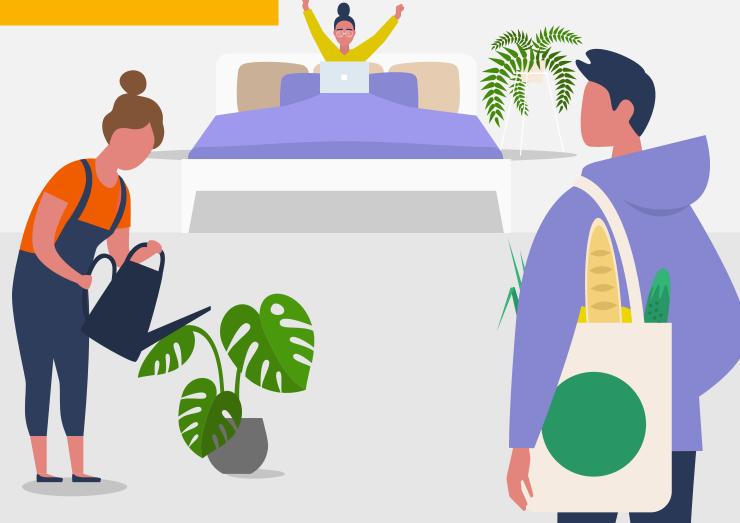
This week, we looked at strengthening the upper body to support your joints and help with daily activities.



Improving your upper body strength helps makes tasks like carry shopping and doing gardening much easier.

Remember to do strengthening exercises slowly.

If your joints are especially hot or swollen, leave the strengthening exercises until your joints settle down again.



This week's activity is to complete the upper body workout from the session during the week.



Use the space below to write down how you got on.

ARM RAISES

Leon also asked you to complete the arm raise challenge on three separate days.

Stand with your arms relaxed at your sides. Raise your arms as far as you can and hold for five to ten seconds. You can try adding household objects, such as tins of beans, to this exercise to increase the resistance.

Repeat this as many times as you can in one minute and record your results over the three days opposite.



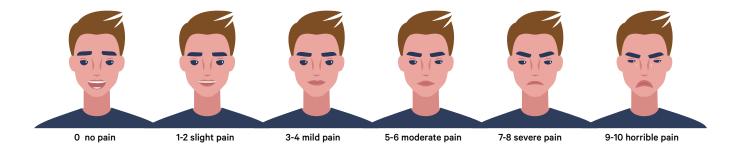




HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember – you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.







This week, we looked at exercises to strengthen the trunk and core.



This includes the muscles all around your stomach, back and hips.

The core muscles help keep us balanced and stable, so it's important to make sure we're keeping these muscles strong.

We also looked at safe ways to get down on the floor and back up again. Remember to use these tips:



This week's activity is to redo the core exercises from the video.



Use the space below to write down how you got on.

Leon also suggested practising getting down and back up from the floor during the week. Do this if you feel up to it.



You can follow Leon's instructions in the video www.versusarthritis.org/lets-move-with-leon-getting-off-the-floor and use the tips on the previous page to help you.



POSTURE CHECK

Another task for this week was to complete a check of your posture every day.

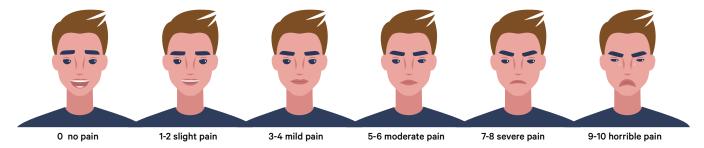
Leon showed you how to do this in the video. Use the checklist to tick off every day you do this. DAY 1 DAY 2 DAY 3 DAY 4 DAY 5 DAY 6 DAY 7



HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember – you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





Now we're halfway through, we want to check in on how you're feeling and progressing on your journey.

This is a good time to look back on previous weeks and see how you're doing.

CHECK-IN

You've done really well to stick with the programme this far, so don't forget to reward yourself for all your hard work.

Look back at the Getting Started section or <u>click here</u> as a reminder of the rewards you promised yourself for overcoming your barriers to exercise.



Before we started, we asked you what activity you did each week.

Look back at the Getting Started section or <u>click here</u> and see how it compares to what you're doing now.



Use the space below to make a note of anything that's changed.

We also asked you if there was anything that stopped you from exercising or got in the way.

Looking back at what you said, has anything changed?



Use the space below to make a note.

MAKING PROGRESS

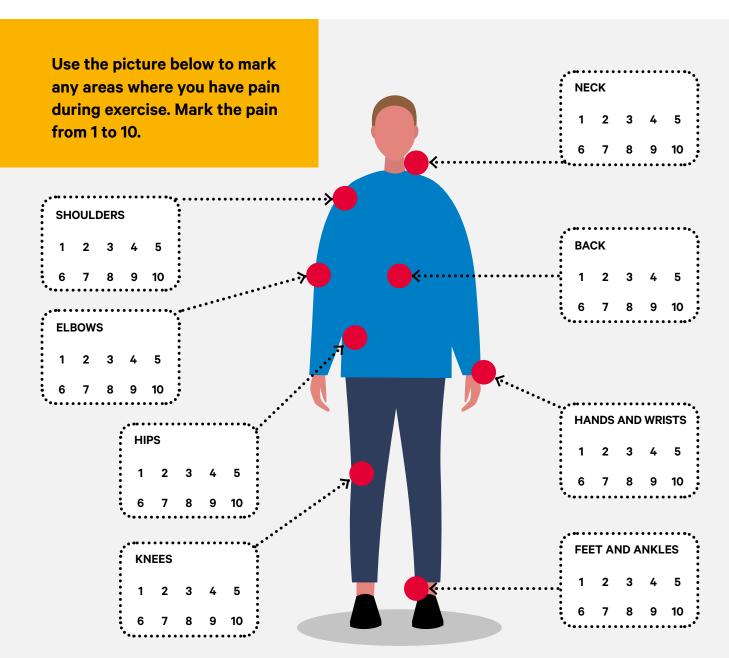
In the first week, you wrote down what you wanted to achieve during this programme.

Has anything changed, or have you made any progress towards your goal?



Sometimes things change, so if you want to update any of your goals now, use the space below to make a note.





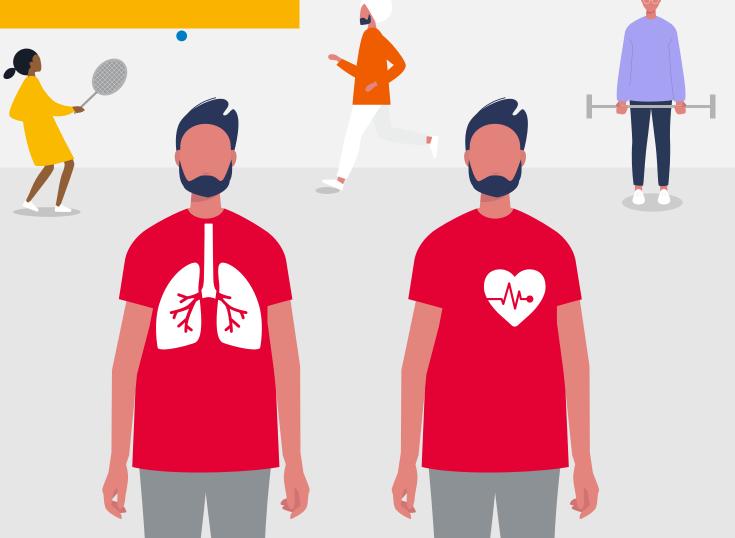
This week's focus is on the heart and lungs and how important it is to keep them healthy.



Exercise that makes you out of breath and gets your heart going is very important for your overall health and fitness.

Remember that the guidelines for adults in the UK say that we should aim for 150 minutes of exercise that gets us out of breath every week – that's five half-hour sessions.

You can mix it up with 150 minutes of moderate exercise or 75 minutes of vigorous or a combination of the two.



This week's activity is to repeat the walking challenge from week three.

See how many times you can now walk your distance in six minutes – you can stop as many times as you need to.



Use the space below to make a note of how many times you completed it in six minutes, and how many times you needed to stop.

Now try to increase this challenge in some way.

This can be by walking for longer than six minutes, walking faster, or by changing the route to include steps or hills – anything that gets you out of breath!



Use the space below to record the change you made, and how you did.

Have a think about what activities get you out of breath.

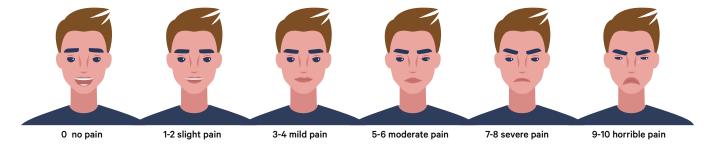
Can you increase the ways you're active during the week – such as by going for a walk, doing some jobs around the house, or by doing some sport?



HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember – you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





This week's focus was on balance.



Dynamic balances focus on keeping your balance while moving, such as in running or walking exercises.

Static balance exercises involve keeping your balance while you're still, such as standing on one leg.

It's important to do activities to improve balance on two days a week, as this helps reduce the risk of falls.



This week's activity is to choose a balance exercise from the video session.

Do this balance exercise once a day and measure how long you can hold this position.

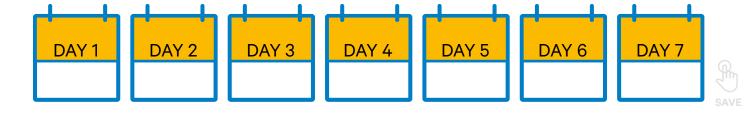


Make a note of the balance you chose below.



Record how long you kept your balance this week each day in the boxes below.

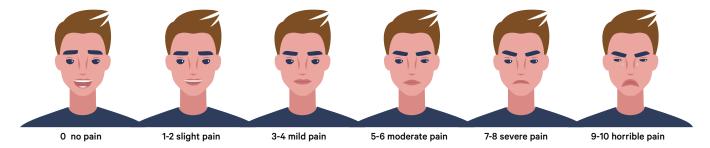
Try to get family and friends involved too. How is your balance – did it improve across the week?



HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember - you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.



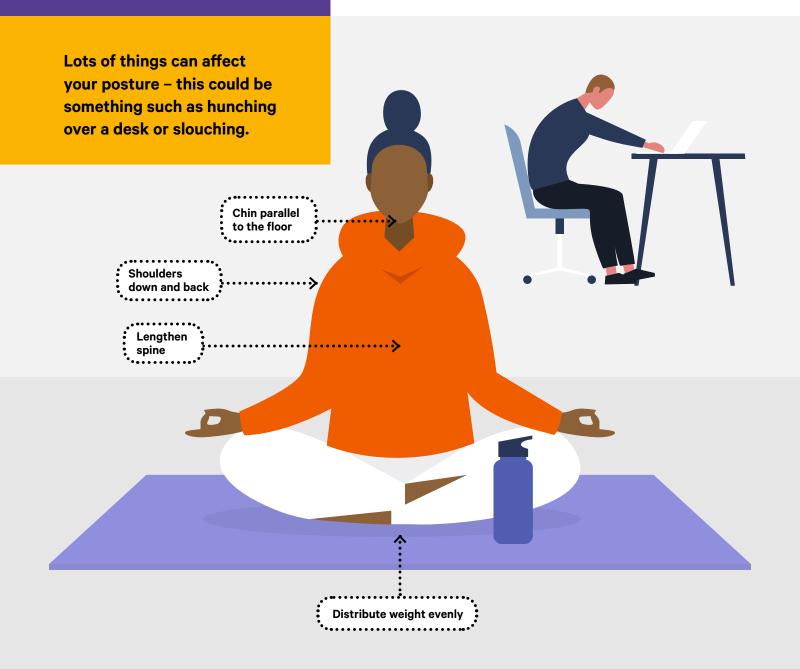


This week's session focused on posture and stability.



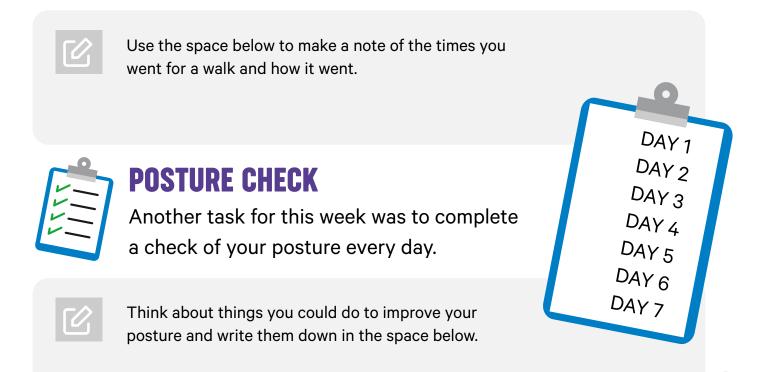
Remember these tips to improve your posture and stability:

- lengthen your spine
- keep your shoulders down and back
- distribute your weight evenly when you walk or sit
- keep your chin parallel to the floor eyes looking forward, not to the floor, can help with this.



This week, Leon asked you to plan times when you can go for a walk for health.

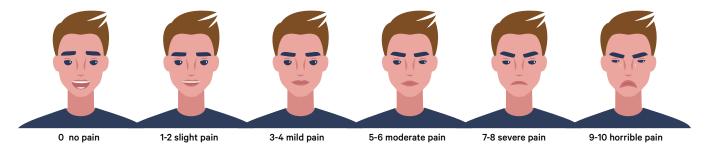
This means focusing on things that promote health, such as raising your heart rate and getting slightly out of breath, or maintaining the right posture throughout.



HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember – you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





This week's focus was on progressions and regressions.

Remember the **FITT** principles:

Watch the video:

Frequency – how often do you exercise?

Intensity - how hard do you work?

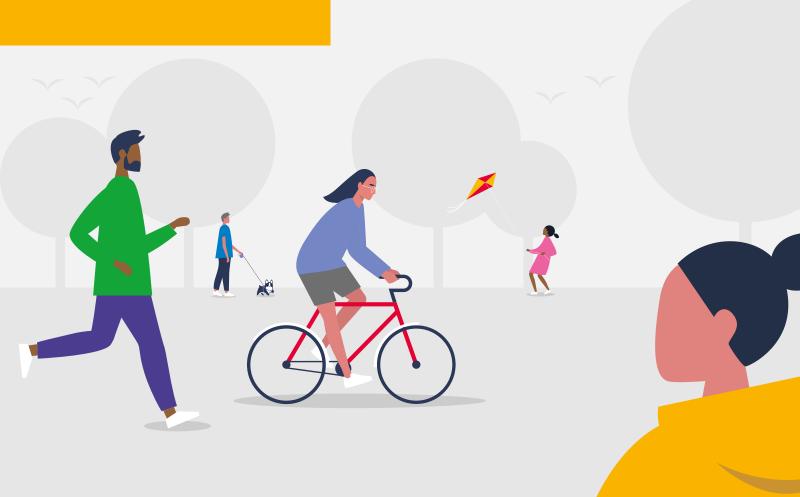
Time - how long do you exercise for?

Type – what exercise are you doing?

You can alter all of these to make exercises easier on bad days or more challenging as you progress.

www.versusarthritis.org/

How can we make exercises easier or harder, depending on how we're feeling?



This week's activity is to redo the video session on the FITT principles.



Use the space below to write down how many times you were able to repeat the exercises in the video.

Pick an activity or earlier video and try some of the FITT principles over a few days.

For example, you could go for a walk and increase and decrease the time you spend doing that across the week.



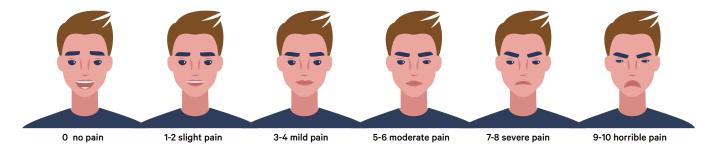
Use the space below to make a note of the activity you picked and what changes you made based on the FITT principles.



HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember - you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





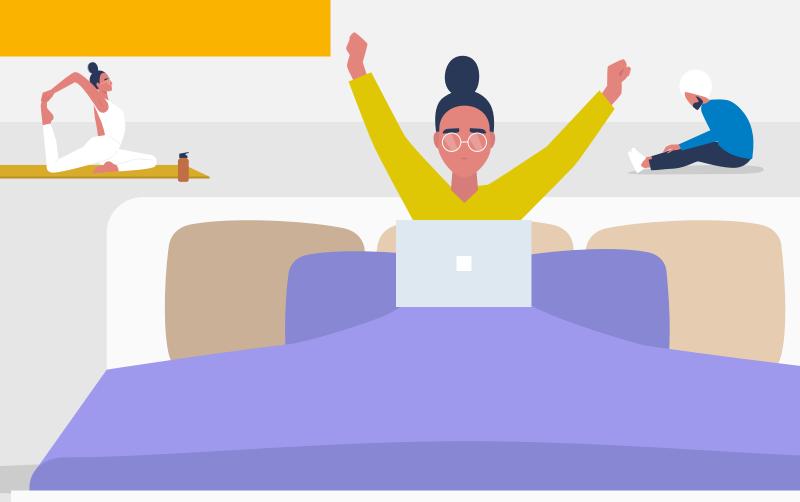
This week, we focused on stretching.



Stretching exercises keep your joints moving properly and can help ease aches and pains.

They're often simple, and most of us already do some without even realising it – you may stretch your arms when you wake up, for example.

It's a good idea to stretch before you exercise too!



This week's activity is to repeat the stretches from the session.

Pick stretches that focus on tight or stiff areas and repeat them two to three times a day.



Use the space below to make a note of the stretches you chose, and how you did.

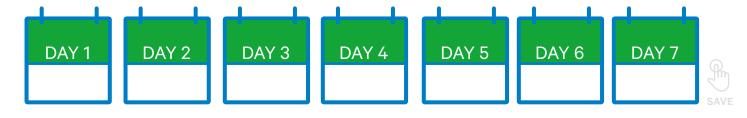


SIT AND REACH

Another challenge for this week is to do a sit and reach test.

Sit down with your legs straight out in front of you – this can be on the floor or a bed if it's easier. Put your arms out straight and reach as far as you can towards your toes.

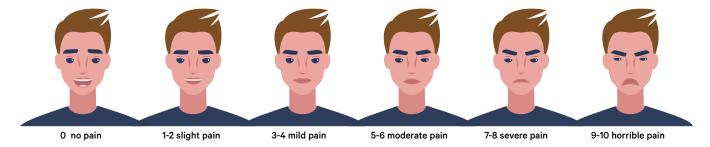
You can do this as many times as you want in the week, but don't do it more than once a day. Measure where you reach to each day and record it below.



HOW DID YOU FEEL?

Use the scale below to mark how you felt while doing this week's activities.

Remember – you shouldn't do anything that puts you above a pain level 4.





Congratulations!
You've now completed
the full exercise
programme.

Watch the video:
www.versusarthritis.org/
celebrating



It's time to look back at where you started and see how things have changed for you.

YOUR ACTIVITY

At the beginning and middle of the programme, we asked you what activity you did each week.

Look back at the Getting Started section here and Week 6 Check in section here and see how it compares to what you can do now that you're at the end.



Use the space below to make a note of anything that's changed.

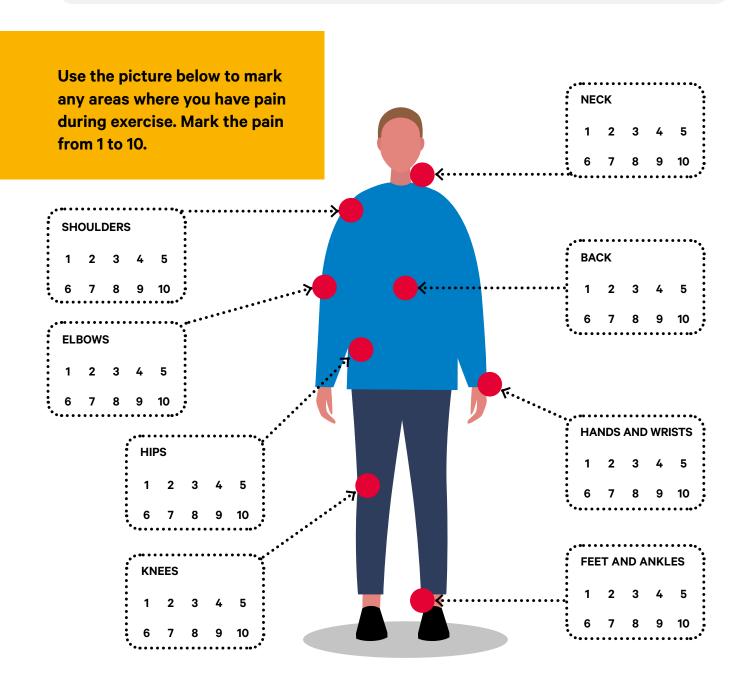
We also asked you if there was anything that stopped you from exercising or that got in the way.

Looking back at what you said, has anything changed?



Use the space below to make a note.





ACHIEVING YOUR GOALS

You also wrote down what you wanted to achieve during this programme.

Has anything changed, or have you made any progress towards your goal?



Now that the programme is over, what are your future goals for improving your activity?

SAVE

CONGRATULATIONS!

Well done for completing the programme. But your journey doesn't need to end here.

You can continue to use this booklet and the emails and videos you received to improve your activity levels. And don't forget to reward yourself for overcoming your barriers to exercise and making progress on your goals. Look back at the Getting Started section or click here as a reminder of the rewards that you promised yourself.

Try not to feel disheartened if you didn't reach all of the goals you set for yourself in the first week – you've been active, which is something to be proud of. You can still carry on with the programme, and you should notice an improvement over time.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12

KEEP IN TOUCH

Even though the programme is over, we'd love to hear from you about your exercise journey.

KEEP MOVING

Sign up to our Let's Move emails and keep movement in your life. www.versusarthritis.org/letsmove

JOIN OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY

Chat to others about exercise in our Let's Move forum. community.versusarthritis.org/categories/letsmove

CALL OUR HELPLINE

Call our helpline on 0800 5200 520 for information and support on exercising with arthritis.

CHAT TO AVA

Our chatbot AVA has exercise advice and tips for people with different conditions. www.versusarthritis.org/ava

FIND OUT MORE

Read more about exercises for arthritis, as well as hints and tips. www.versusarthritis.org/exercise

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