

Beating stress

Listen to Emily talking about the importance of managing her stress levels and the techniques she uses.

Before listening

Do the preparation task first. Then listen to the audio and do the exercises.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. an expectation
2. to be crowded into
3. to cope with
4. nourishment
5. to release
6. a commitment
7. a bunch of
8. to resolve

Definition

- a. to manage something successfully
- b. food or other things needed to live and grow
- c. a promise to do something
- d. a belief about how things should be
- e. to solve a problem or difficulty
- f. a group of (informal)
- g. to express a feeling you were not showing
- h. to completely fill a space

Tasks

Task 1

Are the sentences true or false?

	Answer	
1. Emily thinks that change is a part of everyday life.	True	False
2. Emily recommends we avoid other people to reduce stress.	True	False
3. If we have too much to do, we should not do as many things in one day.	True	False
4. Emily suggests reducing exercise and eating better foods to reduce stress.	True	False
5. We should play the piano to relax.	True	False
6. Emily suggests trying to be perfect.	True	False
7. Emily recommends not sleeping too much at night.	True	False
8. Emily says that if you smile more, you will feel more positive about things.	True	False

Task 2

Complete the sentences with words from the box.

cope	commitments	bunch	crowded
resolve	nourishment	expectations	release

1. We can do many things to with stress.
2. Some families live in flats with little space.
3. It's important to try to disagreements with people because then you can keep the you have made.
4. Having a of friends who can listen to you can help reduce stress.
5. Exercising and eating well will help your body get the it needs.
6. It's also important to have realistic
7. You can also stress by not trying to be perfect.

Discussion

What do you do to beat stress?

Transcript

I want to talk about beating stress today. You know, life here in Hong Kong is very stressful so I think today's topic is very useful for everyone because we can do something about it, just to cope with the stress. So maybe you have some change(s) in your life, maybe big change and small change, but instead of being afraid, I think you should have a positive attitude and think of change as a normal part of life.

And I think maybe here in Hong Kong, the family (*families*) are crowded into a very small housing space, so maybe you would sometimes argue with your family and I think try (*trying*) to resolve the disagreement with people is very important because then you can build strong relationships and keep commitments you have made. For example, sometimes maybe you are feeling alone and you want to make some comfort and I think you can ask the people you trust for help is very important because if you have a bunch of friends, they can listen to you, then you can release some stress through talking to them.

And do you know that actually I find a very funny thing that if you want to reduce some stress, you can reduce this by the word S-T-R-E-S-S, that's 'stress'. How about, let's begin with the 'S'. Well, I think 'S' is that you can have the 'scheduling', for example you don't have to (*shouldn't*) schedule too many things in your day and if you feel you are too busy, you can cut out an activity or two.

And how about the 'T' word? The 'T' word is 'treat your body well', because experts say that exercise can reduce stress and also if you eat healthy food, then your brain and your body get the nourishment they need.

And the word is 'R' ... the next word is 'R' – 'R' is very important, it says 'relax'. You can do an activity you enjoy or that relaxes you, maybe you can read a good book or learn a new hobby and spend time with your pet or even you can visiting (*visit*) a spa and that could make a very good difference. And for me, I like to play piano when I feel stressed and sometimes I may just watch some movie (*movies*) that make me laughs (*laugh*) a lot.

And the next word is 'E' – 'E' is about expectations, and I think be (*being*) realistic about yourself is to (*be*) true to yourself and others. So you can just do your best and don't try to be perfect and don't expect others to be too ... because that will release and reduce a lot of stress for you and the people around you.

And the next word is 'S' – 'S' is, stands for 'sleep' and I really, really love to sleep, to be honest. That's my hobby, I think, because sleep ... if you get a good night's sleep, then it will keep your mind and your body in shape. And experts say if you sleep more than seven hours, you will actually get tired, so don't sleep too much in the day, just sleep it when you feel enough.

And the last word is 'S' again. I always do this action, the 'S' word is 'smile' – if you smile and have confidence, your attitude and your thoughts influence the way you see things. And if you are a negative person, you can actually learn to think in a more positive way because that makes you feel more comfortable when you are coping with the stress. Finally I think we should take action and applies (*apply*) these tips to your life (*our lives*), so everyone can beat stress.

Answers

Preparation task

1. d
2. h
3. a
4. b
5. g
6. c
7. f
8. e

Task 1

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. False
6. False
7. True
8. True

Task 2

1. cope
2. crowded
3. resolve; commitments
4. bunch
5. nourishment
6. expectations
7. release