

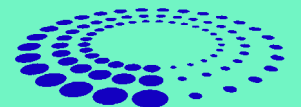


Template training plan

Running: Marathon
Beginner



fullpotential



This template training plan has been provided by Mind's training partner, Full Potential.

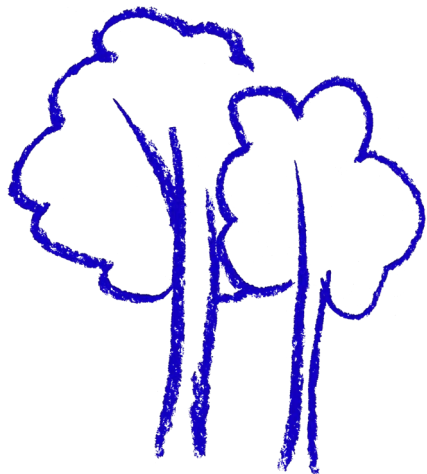
Important

Disclaimer: Full Potential is an independent service provider.

Mind does not endorse or guarantee the services of Full Potential, and you take part in a training programme recommended by Full Potential at your own risk.

It's your responsibility to consult with your GP to make sure that you're medically and physically fit and well enough to take part in a Full Potential training programme and – as per our **terms and conditions** your fundraising challenge.

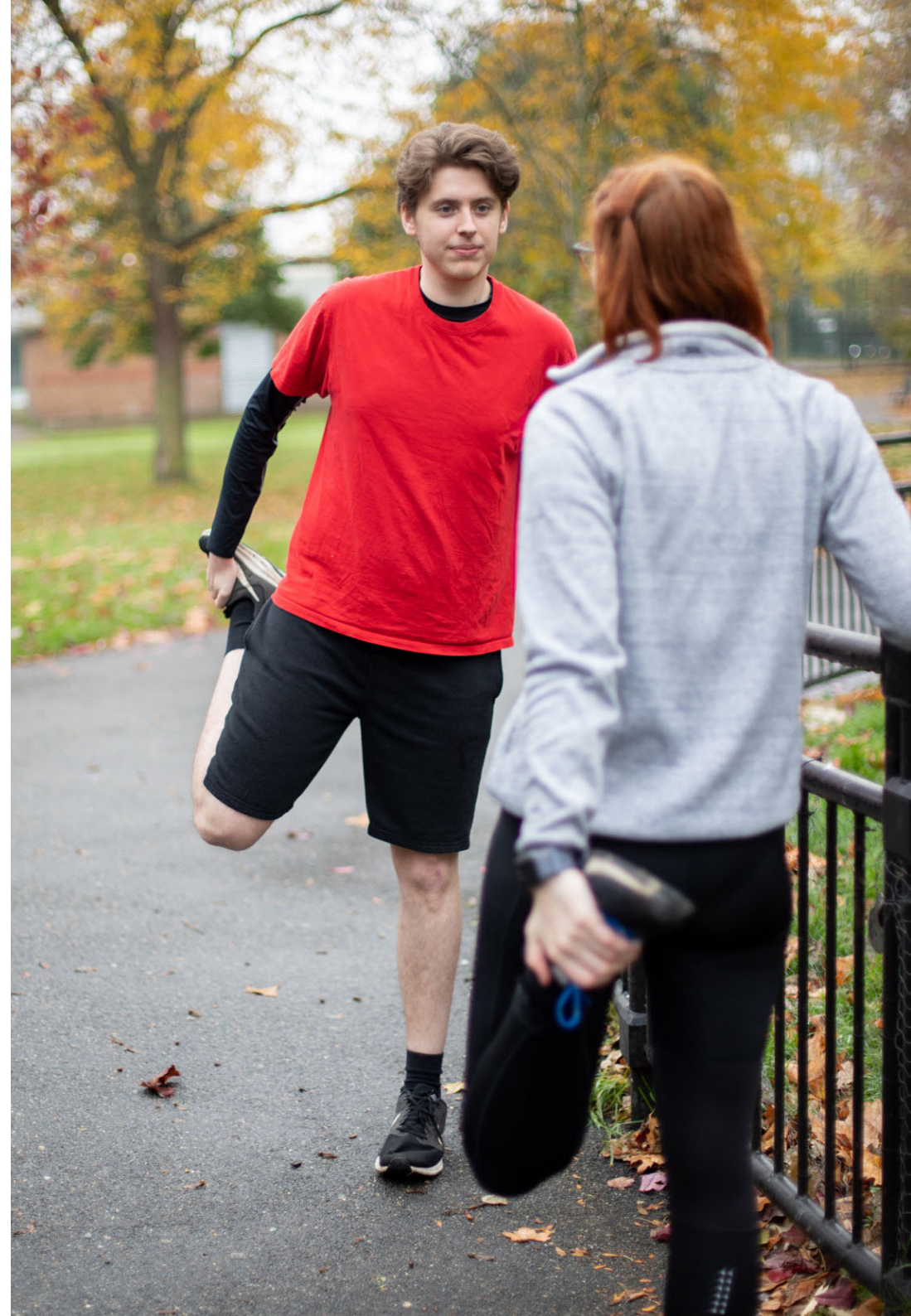
Mind will not be held responsible for any injury or illness related to your training or taking part in a fundraising event.



We know physical activity can be an amazing way to support mental health. However, it isn't helpful for everyone all the time.

It's important to recognise that some of us can develop an unhealthy relationship with physical activity. Anyone can develop an unhealthy relationship with exercise.

But this may be more likely if you have certain types of mental health problems. There's lots of tips for developing a healthy relationship with physical activity on **Mind's website**.



Type of session	Perceived effort level (1-10)*	How it should feel – The talk test
Recovery / easy run	6 – 6.5	You can speak in complete sentences, totally conversational, you're running relaxed, enjoying it and not worrying about the watch.
Steady effort run	7 – 8	You can speak in short sentences but have a slight pause on your breath. It sits between Easy and Threshold running.
Threshold runs	8 – 8.5	You could speak 4-5 words if somebody asked you a question. Your breathing is more laboured and you know you're working, we call this 'controlled discomfort'.
Long run	6.5 – 7	You're in control, running fluidly and very much at a conversational level but you'll feel slightly flushed with a gradual build up of muscular fatigue.
Marathon pace	7.5 – 8	You can speak in short sentences, you have a slight pause on your breath but are not out of breath, relaxed and in control.
10km / speedwork	9 – 9.5	You can say only 2-3 words maximum and are out of breath but still know that you could do more if you had to.

How the plan works

If this is your first marathon and you haven't done much running before, perhaps 15 to 20 minutes straight through, then this 16 week plan will take you to race day as safely as possible.

We'll use walk breaks in the long run to allow you to cover distance in a smart way. Cross training allows us to build volume without additional impact in the legs. Our key with this plan is to keep you injury free.

It's important that you run at the right effort level and intensity to ensure you're training to reach your full potential. Most people think that training "harder is better" so we end up running too quickly, which can result in feeling tired, getting ill or picking up an injury.

Understanding what each session is trying to achieve and how it should feel is the way to train smart. On the left, is our guide to the running sessions that you'll find mentioned in your training plan and a note of how they should feel as a 'talk test'.

Making the training plan work for you

You'll probably not be able to follow the plan as it is set out. We've written our plans with this in mind.

- Key sessions for each week are highlighted in **BLUE**. These are the non-negotiable sessions that you need to fit into your diary in order to run your best race.
- Avoid key sessions on back to back days. You need to recover after the harder sessions, they can't be crammed into a few days within your week. The only exception to this is a key session followed by an easy long run, but this is for more advanced runners.
- Sessions in **BLACK** are the supplementary training within the plan. These sessions are the ones to drop in your week if you can't fit it all in, although we hope you can find the time.



Marathon training plan: beginner

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 1	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	10 minutes brisk walk, 12 minutes easy run, 10 minutes brisk walk	Rest day	30 minutes conditioning work	Rest day	65 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (15 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 2	30 minutes conditioning work	10 minutes brisk walk warm up, 10 minutes easy / steady run, 10 minutes brisk walk cool down	Rest day	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	10 minutes brisk walk, 12 minutes easy run, 10 minutes brisk walk	80 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (20 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 3	30 minutes conditioning work	Rest day	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 6 x 2 minutes at steady effort with a 60 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	10 minutes brisk walk warm up, 12 minutes easy / steady run, 10 minutes brisk walk cool down	Rest day	95 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (25 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 4	30 minutes conditioning work	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 6 x 2 minutes at steady effort with a 60 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	25 minutes easy run	Rest day	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	65 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (15 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down

Marathon beginner plan

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 5	30 minutes conditioning work	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 5 x 3 minutes at steady effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	25 minutes easy run	40 minutes easy cross training / gym class	110 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (30 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 6	30 minutes conditioning work	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 6 x 2 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	10 minutes brisk walk warm up, 12 minutes easy / steady run, 10 minutes brisk walk cool down	40 minutes easy cross training / gym class	125 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (35 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 7	Rest day	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 5 x 2 minutes at threshold effort with a 60 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	30 minutes conditioning work	Rest day	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	140 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (40 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 8	30 minutes conditioning work	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 5 x 3 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	30 minutes easy run	Rest day	125 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (35 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down

Marathon beginner plan

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 9	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	30 minutes conditioning work	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 5 x 3 minutes at threshold effort with a 60 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	Rest day	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	155 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (45 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 10	30 minutes conditioning work	5 Minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 4 x 2 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	Rest day	20 minutes easy run	Rest day	Rest day	Half marathon race
Week 11	Rest day	30 minutes conditioning work	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 mins easy run, 5 x 3 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	Rest day	125 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (35 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 12	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 6 x 3 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	30 minutes conditioning work	Rest day	10 minutes easy, 10 minutes steady, 10 minutes easy	Rest day	170 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (50 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down

Marathon beginner plan

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Week 13	30 minutes conditioning work	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 6 x 3 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	Rest day	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	200 minutes long run: 10 minutes brisk walk warm up, (60 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk), 10 minutes brisk walk cool down
Week 14	30 minutes conditioning work	Rest day	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 5 x 3 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	30 minutes easy / steady run	Rest day	120 minutes long run: (30 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk)
Week 15	30 minutes conditioning work	45 minutes easy cross training / gym class	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 4 x 3 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	Rest day	30 minutes easy cross training / gym class	Rest day	60 minutes long run: (15 x 2 minutes easy run, 1 minute brisk walk)
Week 16	Rest day	5 minutes brisk walk, 5 minutes easy run, 4 x 2 minutes at threshold effort with a 90 second brisk walk between sets, 5 minutes easy run, 5 minutes brisk walk cool down	Rest day	20 minutes easy run	Rest day	Rest day	Marathon race day

Thank you for supporting Mind!

Did you know...?

Full Potential would be happy to provide you with a personalised training plan. To get your plan and to see other training content, visit mind.org.uk/traininghub

