

Resiliency Test

	Absolutely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Absolutely agree
1. When confronted with a crisis, I usually start working on a solution right away rather than first just hoping it will go away.					
2. I don't worry too much about the future.					
3. I am not embarrassed to tell my friends and family when something bad has happened to me.					
4. Every time a crisis occurs, I can easily remember that I've made it through bad things before.					
5. When something bad happens in my life, I don't spend a lot of time wishing I had done something differently or thinking constantly about the bad thing.					
6. I often think about what I've learned from a crisis after it's passed.					
7. When I get stuck in traffic and am going to be late for an appointment, I am very calm rather than frustrated and stressed.					
8. I write a gratitude list at least once a week about the things I'm grateful for.					
9. When something bad happens, I prefer to be around others rather than withdrawing and being by myself.					
10. I'm not very hard on myself most of the time.					
11. I think it's okay to occasionally smile and laugh when something really bad has happened.					
12. I have a go-to person – like a mentor – when a crisis occurs in my life.					
13. I don't tend to get stuck in the past					
14. It's easy for me to believe that a crisis or catastrophe in my life can be a good thing.					
15. When a crisis happens, I come up with a lot of different solutions rather than just freezing.					
Count of crosses in each column (total)					
Multiply the result of each column	X1	X2	X3	X4	X5
Add up each answer		+	+	+	+
Your Resilience Score is					

What your Score Means:

60-75 You're a superball! You have very good resiliency skills and habits and you can bounce back from just about anything.

45-59 You are bouncing right along . . . most of the time. You have good resiliency skills, although sometimes it's hard to engage them right away when faced with a crisis.

30-44 Meh. Your ball has gone a little flat. You need to pump more air into that ball. Crises tend to throw you a bit. Add some flexibility to your life and be open to handling problems differently in the future.

15-29 Uh-oh. Your ball is completely flat. Looks like you need to really work on your resiliency skills. Check out the section below for more ideas. And don't worry: learning to bounce back in life is like learning anything else - you just need to practice. Be open to responding to setbacks in a different way than you have in the past.

DETAILED BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSES

Acceptance: the art of non-resistance Items 1, 5, 7, 11

If you scored yourself a 1, 2, or even a 3 on these items, realize that denial is a common response to adversity and is actually a protective mechanism. Just don't stay in it too long or you won't bounce back at all! Teach yourself to see the reality of your situation and act on that.

Also consider how much energy you are expending when you fight or resist your problem. You can give in without giving up. The difference is that giving in allows you to keep trying to solve the problem without using up precious energy resisting the fact that the problem is here. It's here in front of you. Don't resist it - accept its presence and work on it!

Remember that it's okay to experience positive emotions and laugh even when in the midst of a crisis. This kind of emotional experience will help release oxytocin and endorphins that you need to help you through the storm.

Perspective: see things clearly and from different angles Items 4, 15

The key to this component is to remember that you have had difficult times before and made it through. Remember your past experience!

Also, keep in mind that there are many angles to a problem and therefore many solutions. Break out of your old mold and try something new! A great way to prep yourself for future difficulties is to develop your creativity. Try Roger von Oech's A Whack on the Side of the Head for some fun, mind-expanding activities and ideas.

Social Support: ya gotta have friends Items 3, 9, and 12

There is a lot of research showing that social support is a main component of resiliency. Even if you're an introvert, having just one person you trust to talk with about your situation can be extremely helpful.

It's also really good to have a more experienced, wiser person or mentor you can turn to when trouble hits. This can be a parent, friend, or anyone you look up to and respect.

Positive Actions: creating positive emotions during times of crisis Items 2, 8, 10, 13

As mentioned above, it's important to experience positive emotions in your life, even in times of crisis.

Researcher Barbara Fredrickson's work shows that positive emotions not only help you feel good, but they expand your ability to problem-solve well.

Rather than worrying about the past or future, try to stay in the present as much as possible. Listen to some mindfulness meditations to help you remain centered in the current moment.

Be kind to yourself! Even if you got yourself into a mess, remember that everyone else has at some time in their lives, too. Treat yourself as you would your best friend who is having problems.

Finding the gifts/Learning the lessons Items 6, 14

Adversity frequently brings opportunities for self-growth and new experiences. Even though you would rather not have problems, remember the old saying: The sand that irritates the oyster often becomes a pearl.

