

be kind yourself

Treat yourself like a treasured friend. It's that simple—and yet it can be so hard to do. Ask Monique, a Weight Watchers member, who tried tough love for years: "I'd set deadlines to lose a certain amount of weight and then feel horrible when the scale wasn't moving fast enough. There was a lot of guilt and shame." But Monique says if she were talking to a friend who was similarly striving for a goal and feeling overwhelmed, "I'd be encouraging and loving. I would be great at pointing

out all the small non-scale

victories she accomplished on her journey."

If you can give yourself the same sense of acceptance, understanding, and kindness that you'd give a friend (minus judgment or criticism), that's self-compassion. People who are kind to themselves recognize that no one is perfect and they treat themselves the same whether things are going well or not.

Monique recalls, "When I went shopping, I'd comb the clearance rack for simple basics to get me by. Looking back, I was thinking that I wasn't deserving of clothes that I loved and made me feel good." When she began to link those unhelpful thoughts with her struggle to lose weight, her perspective changed. "This has been about a twoyear process of recognizing and understanding how my thoughts are directly related to my experiences," she says. "Thinking negatively about myself threw a monkey

NAME Monique

JOINED 2017 (second time around!)

HOW I SHOW MYSELF LOVE Making time for reading and exercising. Turning off my phone. Going to bed and waking up refreshed.

WHY I LOVE CONNECT It's where I go to feed myself positive energy, see everyday success stories, talk nonstop about weight and health without feeling like I am boring anyone, and remember that I am not in it for a quick fix but a lifestyle change.



wrench into any hopes of progress and it made me feel like I'd never be successful or measure up, that the task of losing weight was too big." But when you practise self-compassion, it's easier to respond calmly during challenging times, without beating yourself up or feeling sorry for yourself.

For Monique, resilience has been another positive byproduct of self-compassion. "I recognize I will not be perfect, but that doesn't mean that I should give up," she says. "I simply remind myself to be my own loving, kind, and supportive best friend."

how self-compassion helps on and off the scale

Be kind to yourself and, research shows, you're more likely to:

- **✓** feel positive about your body.
- ✓ feel more satisfied with life.
- ✓ be less stressed.
- ✓ be physically active because it's fun, rather than because you feel guilty or that you "should" do it. (And when people are motivated to move for pleasure vs. for "exercise," they're more likely to lose weight and keep it off over time!)
- ✓ maintain your weight loss.



Share how you show #selfcompassion on Connect in the mobile app (for subscribers).

Cover by Media Bakery.

what to do

be your own #BFF

The next time you're struggling, picture how you'd treat a friend in the same situation, and treat yourself the same way.

Imagine a close friend feels bad about him- or herself, or is having a tough time. Write down what you'd do and say to him, including your tone of voice.

best friend forever!

- Think about when you feel bad about *yourself*. Write down what you typically do and say, including your tone of voice.
- Is there a difference? If so, why? What factors or fears might lead you to treat yourself and others differently? Jot them down.
- Write down what might change if you treat yourself as a friend.
- Next time you're feeling bad, treat yourself like a friend and see what happens!

THIS WEEK When you find that you're being hard on yourself, pause and shift your thinking to treat yourself the same way you'd treat a friend by following the steps above.



tip from a leader

"I love these words from Canadian singer Leonard Cohen: 'There is a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in.' I find this saying helpful because it reminds me that it's OK to make mistakes—and that I can learn from them." —KAREN, LEADER

think again

See how to nurture self-compassion by recasting negative self-talk. When you think kindly about yourself you feel—and act—in positive ways.

UNHELPFUL THOUGHT



"I can't believe I slept through my dance class this morning. I've ruined all my progress."

HELPFUL THOUGHT

"If this happened to my friend, I wouldn't think she ruined her progress; I'd think she must have been tired. So I'll try to go to bed earlier tonight and get to a class tomorrow morning instead."

UNHELPFUL THOUGHT



"This week has been so busy—I had trouble staying within my Budget. I failed."

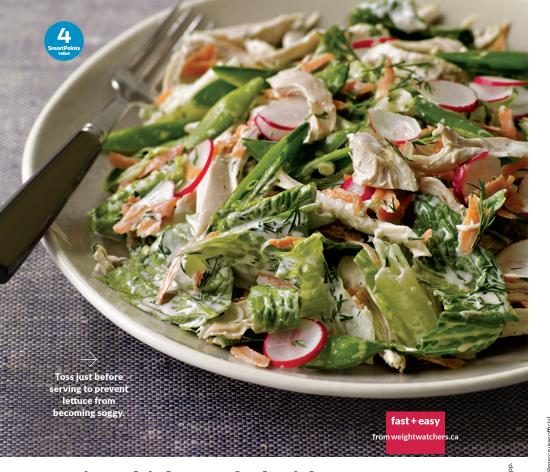
HELPFUL THOUGHT

"I did struggle to stay within my Budget, but I had a lot going on. That doesn't mean I've failed. It happens to everyone from time to time. I'll make a plan to get back on track"

/
YOUR
TURN!
I ORIV.

Recall a time when you were hard on yourself in the aftermath of a lapse or mistake on plan. Write an unhelpful thought you had in reaction. Give it a reality check, then write your helpful thought here.

UNHELPFUL THOUGHT	HELPFUL THOUGHT



spring chicken salad with creamy dill dressing

4 SmartPoints® value per serving // PREP 12 min // SERVES 4

125 ml (½ cup) reduced-calorie ranch salad dressing

60 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh dill

22 ml (1½ Tbsp) water

1.5 L (6 cups) shredded or roughly torn romaine lettuce

500 ml (2 cups) chopped or shredded cooked skinless chicken breast

250 ml (1 cup) sugar snap peas, halved if large

250 ml (1 cup) shredded carrots 3 medium fresh radishes, thinly sliced

IN a large bowl, combine dressing, dill, and water until blended. Add remaining ingredients: toss to mix and coat. YIELDS 625 ml (2½ cups) per serving.

thoughts on my meeting...

Great stuff I heard.... helpful tips... what I'll work on!

GET THE WW FREESTYLE™ PROGRAM AT WORK!

Enjoy the freedom and flexibility of the Weight Watchers plan through your workplace. Here's how: Call us at 1-877-AT -WORK-1 or check out our website at weightwatchers.com/ ca/en/health-solutions to find out if your employer or health plan offers WW discounts!

GET A GIFT WITH PURCHASE!

Buy any 2 smoothies and get a smoothie shaker **FREE***! Retail value: \$10.00. Limit one per member.

*Offer valid in participating meeting locations. For a limited time only. While supplies last. Cannot he redeemed for cash





The WEIGHT WATCHERS Weight Loss System and these materials are proprietary to Weight Watchers International, Inc. and are licensed to Weight Watchers members solely for their personal use in losing and controlling their weight. Any other use is strictly prohibited. NOT FOR RESALE. U.S. patent pending.

WEIGHT WATCHERS, Points, and SmartPoints are the registered trademarks of Weight Watchers International, Inc. WW Freestyle is the trademark of Weight Watchers International, Inc.

©2018 Weight Watchers International, Inc.

All rights reserved. Printed in U.S.A. While supplies last. 20180422C

