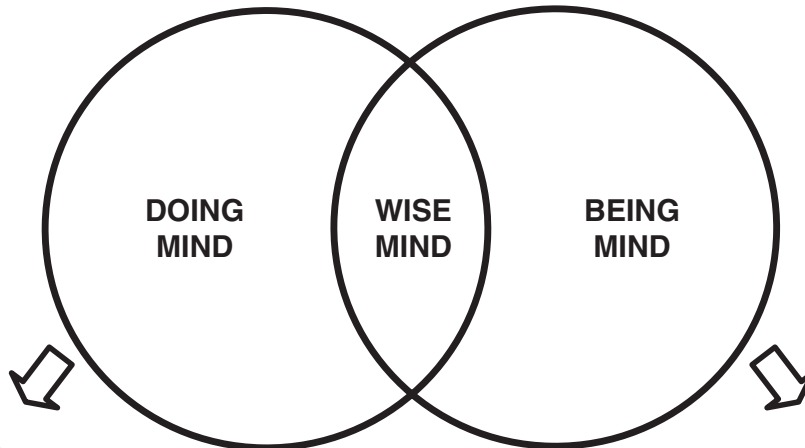


## Skillful Means: Balancing Doing Mind and Being Mind



**Doing Mind Is:**

- Discriminating Mind
- Ambitious Mind
- Goal-Oriented

**When in *doing mind*,** you view your thoughts as facts about the world. You are focused on problem solving and achieving goals.

**Being Mind Is:**

- Curious Mind
- Nothing-to-Do Mind
- Present-Oriented

**When in *being mind*,** you view your thoughts as sensations of the mind. You are focused on the uniqueness of each moment, letting go of focusing on goals.



**Wise Mind Is:**

- A balance of doing and being
- The middle path

**When in Wise Mind, you:**

Use skillful means.

Let go of having to achieve goals—and throw your entire self into working toward these same goals.

Enhance awareness while engaging in activities.

*Note.* The terms “doing mind,” “being mind,” and “nothing-to-do mind” were first used by Jon Kabat-Zinn in *Full Catastrophe Living* (1990, 2013).

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## Ideas for Practicing Balancing Doing Mind and Being Mind

The mindfulness skills require a lot of practice. The practice ideas below are to help you act skillfully in everyday life, bringing together doing activities of everyday life with being mind.

1.  **Wise Mind reading.** To increase your desire for mindfulness, find readings or quotations that have the effect of making you actually want to practice mindfulness in your everyday life. Put these quotations at strategic spots in your life (e.g., near the coffee maker), and then while you are waiting for other things, read the inspirational messages.
2.  **Wise Mind reminders.** Set an alarm at home, at work, or (if possible) on your cell phone or watch to go off randomly or at set times. Use the alarm as a reminder to be mindful of your current activities. (See [www.mindfulnessdc.org/bell/index.html](http://www.mindfulnessdc.org/bell/index.html) or a similar Internet site for a free mindfulness clock to download onto your computer.) Set up automatic text messages or Twitter messages to remind yourself. Write out mindfulness quotations that you like, and tape them in strategic places where you will see them as reminders to practice mindfulness.
3.  **Wise Mind in the routine of daily life.** Choose one routine activity in your daily life (such as brushing your teeth, getting dressed, making coffee or tea, working on a task). Make a deliberate effort to bring moment-to-moment awareness to that activity.
4.  **“Just this one moment” Wise Mind.** When you begin to feel overwhelmed or frazzled, say, “Just this one moment, just this one task,” to remind yourself that your only requirement at the moment is to do one thing in the moment—wash one dish, take one step, move one set of muscles. In this moment, let the next moment go until you get there.

(continued on next page)

Note. Exercises 3 and 4 are from Segal, Z. V., Williams, J. M. G., & Teasdale, J. D. (2013). *Mindfulness-based cognitive therapy for depression: A new approach to preventing relapse* (2nd ed.). New York: Guilford Press. Copyright 2013 by The Guilford Press. Adapted by permission. All other exercises are adapted from Kabat-Zinn, J. (1990). *Full catastrophe living: Using the wisdom of your body and mind to face stress, pain, and illness*. New York: Delacorte Press. Copyright 1990 by Jon Kabat-Zinn. Adapted by permission of Random House.

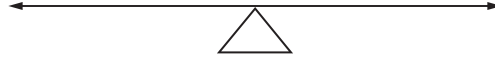
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5.  **Wise Mind awareness of events.** Notice events in your everyday life (both pleasant and unpleasant), even if they are only very small (such as warm water on your hands when washing, the taste of something you eat, the feel of wind on your face, the fact that your car is running out of gas or that you are tired).
  
6.  **Wise Mind awareness of what needs to be done.** When relaxing after a hard day's work or at a break during the day, stay aware of what needs to be done and focus on doing what is needed.
  
7.  **Wise Mind willingness.** Practice willingness to do what is needed when you are asked, or when you see that something needs to be done. Do what is needed with a balance of being and doing, focusing the mind, immersing yourself in the task.
  
8.  **Three-minute WISE MIND: Slowing down “doing mind” in your everyday life**
  - Bring yourself into the present moment by adopting a “wide-awake” posture, and then, in Wise Mind, ask, “What is my experience right now? What thoughts and images are going through my mind?” Notice them as mental events, as neural firing in your brain. Next ask, “What are my feelings and sensations in my body?” Notice these as they come into your awareness. Then say, “OK, this is how it is right now.”
  - Settle into Wise Mind and focus your entire attention on your breath as it goes in and as it goes out, one breath after another. Gather yourself all together, and focus on the movements of your chest and abdomen, the rise and fall of your breath, moment by moment, breath by breath as best you can. Let your breath become an anchor to bring you into the present moment.
  - Once you have gathered yourself to some extent, allow your awareness to expand. As well as being aware of the breath, include also a sense of the body as a whole, your posture, your facial expression, your hands. Follow the breath as if your whole body is breathing. When you are ready, step back into your activities, acting from Wise Mind of your whole body in the present moment.
  
9.  **Other Wise Mind practice ideas:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Walking the Middle Path: Finding the Synthesis between Opposites

**Reasonable  
mind**



**Emotion  
mind**

**Both** regulate actions and make decisions based on reason,  
**And**  
take into account values and experience even strong emotions as they come and go.

**Doing  
mind**



**Nothing-to-do  
mind**

**Both** do what is needed in the moment (including reviewing the past or planning for the future),  
**And**  
experience fully the uniqueness of each moment in the moment.

**Intense desire  
for change  
of the moment**



**Radical  
acceptance  
of the moment**

**Both** allow yourself to have an intense desire to have something else than what is now,  
**And**  
be willing to radically accept what you have in your life in the present moment.

**Self-denial**



**Self-indulgence**

**Both** practice moderation,  
**And**  
satisfy the senses.

**Other:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_