

The Pendulum Eater WORKBOOK

from Why Did I Just Eat That? pages 117-126

Affirmation



Refer to page 120 in the book, Step One. First, start by acknowledging that up until now, you have been a pendulum eater and that you understand that there needs to be a change in your relationship with food. Take some quiet time to acknowledge this, then record your thoughts in the note below. You might write down, "I am reclaiming a healthy, consistent manner of eating and relationship with food," then sign and date it. I also recommend finding a moment to look in the mirror and tell yourself of this intention, and why—in your own words—that this is important to you.

Signature: Date:	

Exercise #1 - Past Eating Strategies



Refer to page 121 in the book, Step Two. Reflection often has the ability to put things in perspective, and through hindsight we might have a chance to learn about which of our choices worked, and which didn't. So make a list of the eating strategies—or "diets"—you've been on over the last five to 10 years. Include your best recollection of how long you were on each one, and then what happened when the diet ended. Did you switch to a new diet? Did you go off and then fall into a binge-eating cycle for a while? Reflect on the effectiveness of the diets. What can you take away from your personal diet history? Have any of your past diets gotten you to the place of meeting your long-term nutrition goals?

Eating Strategy	Time Period	Comments

Exercise #1 - Past Eating Strategies, continued



Eating Strategy	Time Period	Comments

Exercise #2 - Food Diary



Refer to page 122 in the book, Step Two. After you've completed the previous worksheet, turn your attention to keeping a Food Diary for a week and observe how you're eating from day to day. After a week, consider what you have written in your diary. Is your intake fairly consistent? Is it fairly nourishing? Is it fairly satisfying? Do you have binge days, cheat days and days to be "good"? Do your habits feel truly satisfying, or overly-restrictive, or chaotic? Are you ready to get a handle on your relationship with food and eating?

Date	Breakfast	Optional Snack	Lunch	Optional Snack	Dinner	Optional Snack

Exercise #2 - Food Diary, continued

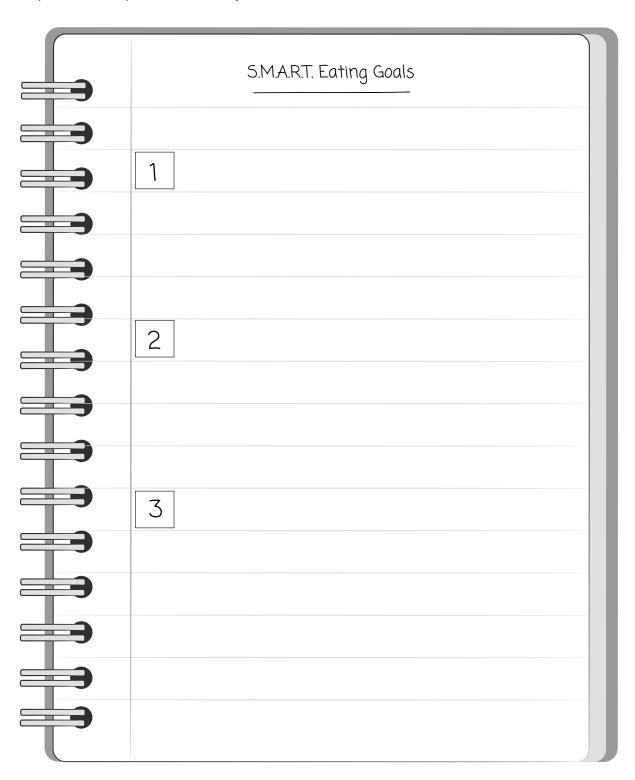


Date	Breakfast	Optional Snack	Lunch	Optional Snack	Dinner	Optional Snack

S.M.A.R.T. Eating Goals



Refer to page 123 in the book, Step Three. List three positive diet changes that you'd like to commit to, and position them as S.M.A.R.T. goals. For example, a smart goal might be "I will eat two meals of fish a week" or "I will eat three servings of vegetables a day, five days per week." You can see how this is much more concrete than simply saying, "I will eat more vegetables." (That approach would be non-S.M.A.R.T.: not specific, measurable, or time-bound.)



Food Diary Meal Planner



Refer to page 124 in the book, Step Four. This next worksheet is similar to your Food Diary, only this one will function as your Meal Planner. Examine your S.M.A.R.T. list, and take the ideas listed to be included in your meal plan. Just include the three S.M.A.R.T. suggestions; don't make any more until you can work these into your eating habits. Small, achievable steps are the goal. You don't need to create a total, inflexible meal plan, but that you do include is, ideally, Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-Bound.

Date	Breakfast	Optional Snack	Lunch	Optional Snack	Dinner	Optional Snack

Food Diary Meal Planner, continued



Date	Breakfast	Optional Snack	Lunch	Optional Snack	Dinner	Optional Snack

Affirm Who You Are



Refer to page 126 in the book, Step Five. Finally... take ownership of the following statement, by putting your name in the provided blank space. Cut it out and tape it somewhere you can see it every day, to your bathroom mirror for example. Try to repeat your new affirmation to yourself each day for at least a month. Repetition is key!

