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January 16, 2015 3 min read The Opinions Expressed by Entrepreneur Contributors are their own. For most entrepreneurs, coming up with a brilliant, executive idea is easy. The hard part stays focused on it long enough to actually see it through to exercise. Sound familiar? That's why the power of focus is so important. I like the definition that I heard podcaster John Lee Dumas entrepreneur on fire give, using every letter of the word focus: Follow one course to success. So what's the one thing you want to really accomplish this year? I encourage you to focus on it until you complete it. Don't be distracted by the many shiny objects that inevitably pop up throughout your journey to finish what you started. Here are four things to help you get you back on track: Related: 5 ways to support a long-term Focus1 career. Focus on your priorities. Do the first thing first. Chart your day the night before. If you don't have a clear goal for your day, you will steal your time rather than accomplish what you set out to do. Motivational speaker Sig Sieglar said: Lack of direction, not lack of time is a problem. We all have 24 hours a day. Focus on the benefits of sticking to a set course. Focus on the end results. If the one goal you set will take an entire year to accomplish, don't get tired halfway and give up. Keep reminding yourself why achieving this goal will make your life better. Whatever your goal for this year, you can get there - if you're willing to do the job, Oprah wrote in her journal. Related: 11 ways to avoid distractions and stay focused3. Focus on the present. Sig Siglar also said: Yesterday ended last night. Today is a whole new day, and it is yours. Even if you go out of your way to achieve your goal, remember that tomorrow is another day. Don't get stuck on the trivial or the mundane - or yesterday. Jump back on the horse and give things your best shot the next day. Focus on the positive things you can do in the future, not on what you failed to do yesterday. Focus on strengths. Everyone has some things that he or she is good at, as well as what he or she is not so good at. Make sure the goal you set is something you can actually accomplish and preferably something that you are good at or can become experienced for a long time. Mozart, Beethoven and other musical geniuses have developed their skills in practice and just devotion to their craft. If you want to achieve similar results, you should have a laser focus. In the book, Power Focus, authors Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Les Hewitt said #1 reason people from getting what they want is a lack of attention. Conversely, people who focus on what they want thrive. Will you thrive this year? The answer will lie in where you put your attention. Related: #1 question entrepreneurs should ask last update on October 14, October, Today is not as you planned, but that doesn't mean you're weak. It just means you're human and you're not bad just because you've had a bad day. Not every day is a good day, but there is something good in every day. -Alice Morse Earle It's not the end of the world when you find yourself thinking I've had a bad day, but it can feel like that. You may have had plans that have fallen apart, experiences that will take you back, and interactions that only hurt. You may have started the day thinking that you could take it all over, only to find you could hardly get out of bed. If you have a bad day, you may forget to look at the good. Sometimes self-service helps us remember why we stand. It helps us to replenish and reset our mentality. It helps us know that there are still options and that the day is not over yet. Love yourself today, no matter how hard it may be. It's a way of finding yourself among the difficulties you have. That's how you center yourself and regain focus and live a more meaningful life. Give yourself credit and compassion. Here are 7 ways to bounce back from a bad day by using self-compassion as a tool. If you've had a bad day, this is for you!1. Making a Gratitude ListIn a study on gratitude, psychologists Dr. Robert Emmons and Dr. Michael E. McCullough conducted an experiment where one group of people wrote thank you lists for ten weeks and another group wrote about irritations. The study found that the group that wrote about gratitude reported a more optimistic mentality in their lives. In general, having a list of thanks improved well-being and made one truly grateful, considering blessings in their lives. Write a list of what you are grateful for if you had a bad day. Do it as long as you like, but also be sure to note why you are grateful for every single thing you write. What gave you the most joy? What put you on better days? Keep tallying triumphs in mind, especially when you have bad days. The day does not define you and you still have things that surround you. It can be material things, spiritual connections and experiences, relationships, basic needs, emotional and mental well-being, physical health, progress on the path to hopes and dreams, or simply being alive. Here are a few other easy ways to practice gratitude. Write in JournalJournaling affects overall mental health, which also affects physical health and helps in managing stress, depression, anxiety and more. All you need is a pen and paper, or you could make an online password-protected magazine such as Penzu. The key is to get started and not put pressure on yourself about how polished or committed it is. You don't need to have a preliminary experience to start writing a journal. Just start. Write what bothers you for 15 minutes. It helps with rumination, problem handling, and can even help with Solutions. However you approach it, you can find patterns of thinking that no longer serve you and begin to transform the general mental state. This will affect all areas of your life and is an excellent survival skill3. MeditationMeditation can help you overcome negative thinking patterns by worrying about the future, focusing on the past, or trying to overcome a bad day. It changes your mindset and helps you focus on the present or any one thing you really want to focus on. Here's an example of meditation you can do: Get in a comfortable position. Close your eyes. Rest your body, relieve tension, and impure jaw. Tighten and release each muscle group in body scanning for progressive muscle relaxation. Focus on breathing, take a few deep breaths. Let your stomach expand when you breathe in for diaphragmatic breathing. Free yourself completely of air and then return to normal breathing. Then focus on the idea of self-love and let it erase negative thoughts. Think about how you judged yourself, with narratives coming up that your mind can create. Give yourself unconditional love and release the solution. Not the time to meditate on it because you matter. This is especially important if you have had a bad day. Read this article for more information on how to get started with meditation practice.4 In a child PoseYoga outlet says: Baby's posture is an easy way to soothe your mind, slow down your breathing, and restore a sense of peace and security. The practice of posture before bedtime can help free up the day's worries. By practicing in the morning you can help the transition from sleep to wake-up. When you do Baby Pose, it can be between difficult positions in yoga, or it can be anytime you feel that you need rest. This will help you recover from difficulties and relax your mind. It also has physical health benefits of lengthening your back, opening the hips, and helping with digestion. To make baby pose, rest your buttocks back on your feet, knees on the floor. Lengthen your body above your knees with both hands outstretched or tucked back, with your head and neck leaning on the floor. Make this pose as a gift for yourself. You allow yourself to heal, rest, get time for yourself, recover and recharge. When you had a bad day, he was waiting for you.5 Try Positive Self-TalkEngage in Positive Self-Exploring. It's essentially a choice of your thoughts. When you have negative thoughts such as I can't do it, replace it consciously with the thought I can do it. Give yourself positive approvals to help with this. Negative self-talk fits into four common categories: personalization or blaming yourself, increasing or just focusing on the negative, disaster or expecting the worst and polarizing or just seeing back and white. When you stop blaming yourself for everything and start focusing on the positive, waiting for to go out, and seeing the gray area in life, you reverse those negative mentalities and engage in positive self-examination. When you say words of kindness to yourself, your brain reacts with a more positive attitude. This attitude will affect everything you do. It's how you take care of yourself if you've had a bad day. Check with yourself to know when you have negative self talk. Do you see patterns? When did they start to become a problem? Can you turn these thoughts around?6. Use Coping Skills and take BreakUse to your survival skills. This means not letting your thoughts take control of yourself. You can distract yourself and run a bit. Do what you love. You can play sports, listen to music, dance, volunteer or help someone, be outdoors, or read books. It's not about repression. It's about redirection. You can't stay in thoughts that no longer work for you. Sometimes, it's ok to get out of your own way. Give yourself a break from the things that are going on in your head. You can always go back to the problem later. It may even help you figure out the best course of action as sometimes straying is the only way to see the solution. If you've had a bad day, you may not feel like deciding what went wrong. You may need a break, so take one.7. If a bad day turns into bad days I believe depression is legal. But I also think that if you don't exercise, eat nutritious food, get sunlight, get enough sleep, consume positive material, surround yourself with support, then you don't give yourself a chance. -Jim CarreyIf you've been feeling out of control, depressed or unstable for more than a few weeks, it's time to call a mental health professional. It's not because you failed anyway. That's because you're human and you just need help. You may not be able to quickly bounce back from a bad day and that's fine. Feel how you feel, but don't let it consume you. When you're talking to a professional, share the methods you've tried here and whether they've been helpful. They can tell you additional ideas or get an idea from your struggles not being able to bounce back from a series of bad days. If you have more than just a bad day, they want to know. If you don't have the answers, that's fine too. You just need to try these tools and figure out how you feel. That's all you have to do. Keep taking care of yourself. Any progress is progress, no matter how small it may be. Give yourself a better chance by reaching out. Final thoughtsIf you've had a bad day, don't let it stop you. Know this: It's okay not to be okay. You have the right to feel Feel. But there's something you can do about it. You can invest in yourself through self-service. You are not alone in this. Everyone has bad days from time to time. You just need to know that you are you things you tell yourself. 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