

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Workshops: A Comprehensive Guide

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Editor: Dr. David Burns, PhD, renowned expert in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and a strong advocate for integrated therapeutic approaches, including ACT.

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Introduction:

Acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) workshops are increasingly popular as individuals seek effective strategies to manage stress, anxiety, and depression. Unlike traditional therapies focused solely on symptom reduction, acceptance and commitment therapy workshops emphasize psychological flexibility – the ability to contact the present moment fully, and to take actions guided by your values. This article provides a thorough overview of acceptance and commitment therapy

workshops, exploring their diverse applications and benefits. We'll examine the core principles of ACT, the structure of typical workshops, and the potential impact on various life challenges. Understanding the nuances of acceptance and commitment therapy workshops is crucial for anyone considering this powerful approach to mental well-being.

H1: The Core Principles of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)

Acceptance and commitment therapy workshops are grounded in six core principles:

Acceptance: Learning to accept difficult thoughts and feelings without judgment or struggle. This isn't about resignation, but about acknowledging internal experiences without letting them dictate behavior. Acceptance and commitment therapy workshops frequently utilize mindfulness exercises to foster this acceptance.

Cognitive Defusion: Developing the ability to step back from thoughts and observe them as mental events rather than absolute truths. Acceptance and commitment therapy workshops teach techniques like metaphorical thinking and "leaves on a stream" to achieve this.

Present Moment Awareness: Cultivating a mindful awareness of the present moment without getting lost in past regrets or future anxieties. Mindfulness practices are central to acceptance and commitment therapy workshops.

Self-as-Context: Developing a sense of self that is separate from thoughts and feelings. This allows individuals to experience their inner world without being identified with it. Acceptance and commitment therapy workshops help participants understand their self as a continuous flow of experience.

Values: Identifying and clarifying personal values that guide meaningful action. Acceptance and commitment therapy workshops emphasize connecting actions with deeply held values.

Committed Action: Taking consistent action aligned with one's values, even in the face of discomfort or challenges. This is where the "commitment" aspect of acceptance and commitment therapy workshops comes into play.

H2: Structure and Content of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Workshops

Acceptance and commitment therapy workshops vary in length and format. Some are single-day intensives, while others span several days or even weeks. Regardless of the duration, most workshops include:

Introduction to ACT: A comprehensive overview of the six core principles, their interrelationships, and how they contribute to psychological flexibility.

Experiential Exercises: Hands-on activities designed to cultivate acceptance, cognitive defusion, present moment awareness, and other ACT skills. These may include mindfulness meditations, role-playing, and creative exercises.

Values Clarification: Guided exercises to help participants identify and articulate their core values.

Action Planning: Developing concrete steps to align actions with identified values.

Group Discussion and Sharing: A safe space to share experiences, challenges, and successes with others. The peer support aspect of acceptance and commitment therapy workshops is often highlighted as particularly beneficial.

H3: Applications of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Workshops

Acceptance and commitment therapy workshops are effective for a wide range of issues, including:

Anxiety Disorders: ACT helps individuals learn to manage anxiety symptoms without letting them control their lives.

Depression: ACT fosters a shift in focus from negative thoughts and feelings to meaningful actions aligned with values.

Stress Management: ACT equips individuals with skills to navigate stressful situations more effectively.

Chronic Pain: ACT helps individuals accept pain while continuing to live a fulfilling life.

Relationship Issues: ACT helps improve communication and relationship dynamics by fostering self-acceptance and mindful interaction.

Trauma Recovery: ACT facilitates processing of trauma by emphasizing acceptance and self-compassion.

H4: Benefits of Participating in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Workshops

Participants in acceptance and commitment therapy workshops often report increased:

Psychological Flexibility: The ability to adapt to challenging situations and move towards valued goals.

Self-Compassion: Kindness and understanding toward oneself.

Resilience: The ability to bounce back from adversity.

Mindfulness: Increased awareness of the present moment.

Life Satisfaction: A greater sense of purpose and meaning.

H5: Finding and Choosing the Right Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Workshops

When selecting acceptance and commitment therapy workshops, consider the following:

Trainer Qualifications: Look for trainers with appropriate certifications and experience.

Workshop Format: Choose a format that fits your needs and preferences (e.g., intensive, ongoing group).

Workshop Focus: Select a workshop that addresses your specific needs and interests.

Participant Reviews: Check online reviews to get a sense of others' experiences.

Conclusion:

Acceptance and commitment therapy workshops offer a powerful and effective approach to improving mental well-being. By focusing on psychological flexibility and values-based action, these workshops equip individuals with the skills to manage challenges, embrace life fully, and live in accordance with their deepest values. The experiential nature of acceptance and commitment therapy workshops provides a unique opportunity for personal growth and transformation, making them an invaluable resource for anyone seeking lasting positive change.

FAQs:

1. Are acceptance and commitment therapy workshops right for me? ACT workshops can benefit individuals struggling with various mental health challenges and those seeking personal growth. Consider your specific needs and goals before enrolling.
1. What is the difference between ACT and CBT? While both are evidence-based therapies, ACT emphasizes acceptance of difficult thoughts and feelings, while CBT focuses on challenging and changing negative thought patterns.
1. How long do the effects of acceptance and commitment therapy workshops last? The benefits of ACT workshops can be long-lasting, particularly when participants integrate the learned skills into their daily lives.
1. Do I need prior experience with mindfulness to attend an ACT workshop? No prior experience is necessary. Most workshops provide foundational mindfulness instruction.
1. Are acceptance and commitment therapy workshops covered by insurance? Coverage varies depending on your insurance plan and provider. It's best to check with your insurance company.

1. Can I attend an ACT workshop if I'm taking medication? Yes, ACT can be used alongside medication.

1. Are acceptance and commitment therapy workshops suitable for children and adolescents?
While ACT is primarily adapted for adults, specialized adaptations exist for children and adolescents.

1. What if I miss a session in a multi-day workshop? Contact the workshop organizer to discuss options; some flexibility may be possible.

1. How can I find a reputable ACT workshop near me? Search online for "acceptance and commitment therapy workshops [your location]" or consult with your therapist or doctor.

Related Articles:

1. "The Science Behind ACT: A Deep Dive into Psychological Flexibility": Explores the empirical research supporting the effectiveness of ACT.

2. "Mindfulness Practices in ACT Workshops: A Practical Guide": Provides a step-by-step guide to mindfulness techniques used in ACT.

3. "ACT for Anxiety: Overcoming Worry and Fear Through Acceptance": Focuses on the application of ACT to anxiety disorders.
4. "ACT for Depression: Finding Meaning and Purpose in the Face of Sadness": Explores the use of ACT for managing depressive symptoms.
5. "Values-Based Living: The Heart of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Workshops": Delves into the importance of values in ACT.
6. "Cognitive Defusion Techniques in ACT: Liberating Yourself from Thoughts": Explains various cognitive defusion techniques.
7. "Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Workshops for Couples: Strengthening Relationships Through Mindfulness": Covers the application of ACT to relationship issues.
8. "Overcoming Procrastination with ACT: Taking Action Aligned with Your Values": Addresses the use of ACT to combat procrastination.
9. "Integrating ACT into Daily Life: Sustaining the Benefits Beyond the Workshop": Provides practical tips for maintaining ACT practices after completing a workshop.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Learning ACT Jason B. Luoma, Steven C.

Hayes, Robyn D. Walser, 2017-12-01 Acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) is among the most remarkable developments in contemporary psychotherapy. This second edition of the pioneering ACT skills-training manual for clinicians provides a comprehensive update—essential for both experienced practitioners and those new to using ACT and its applications. ACT is a proven-effective treatment for numerous mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, stress, addictions, eating disorders, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, and more. With important revisions based on new developments in contextual behavioral science, Learning ACT, Second Edition includes up-to-date exercises and references, as well as material on traditional, evidence-based behavioral techniques for use within the ACT framework. In this fully revised and updated edition of Learning ACT, you'll find workbook-format exercises to help you understand and take advantage of ACT's unique six process model—both as a tool for diagnosis and case conceptualization, and as a

basis for structuring treatments for clients. You'll also find up-to-the-minute information on process coaching, new experiential exercises, an increased focus on functional analysis, and downloadable extras that include role-played examples of the core ACT processes in action. By practicing the exercises in this workbook, you'll learn how this powerful modality can improve clients' psychological flexibility and help them to live better lives. Whether you're a clinician looking for in-depth training and better treatment outcomes for individual clients, a student seeking a better understanding of this powerful modality, or anyone interested in contextual behavioral science, this second edition provides a comprehensive revision to an important ACT resource.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: The Happiness Trap Russ Harris, 2013
A guide to ACT: the revolutionary mindfulness-based program for reducing stress, overcoming fear, and finding fulfilment - now updated. International bestseller, 'The Happiness Trap', has been published in over thirty countries and twenty-two languages. NOW UPDATED. Popular ideas about happiness are misleading, inaccurate, and are directly contributing to our current epidemic of stress, anxiety and depression. And unfortunately, popular psychological approaches are making it even worse! In this easy-to-read, practical and empowering self-help book, Dr Russ Harris, reveals how millions of people are unwittingly caught in the 'The Happiness Trap', where the more they strive for happiness the more they suffer in the long term. He then provides an effective means to escape through the insights and techniques of ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy), a groundbreaking new approach based on mindfulness skills. By clarifying your values and developing mindfulness (a technique for living fully in the present moment), ACT helps you escape the happiness trap and find true satisfaction in life. Mindfulness skills are easy to learn and will rapidly and effectively help you to reduce stress, enhance performance, manage emotions, improve health, increase vitality, and generally change your life for the better. The book provides scientifically proven techniques to: reduce stress and worry; rise above fear, doubt and insecurity; handle painful thoughts and feelings far more effectively; break self-defeating habits; improve performance and find fulfilment in your work; build more satisfying relationships; and, create a rich, full and meaningful life.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: The Mindful and Effective Employee Paul E. Flaxman, Frank W. Bond, Fredrik Livheim, 2013-05-01
The importance of improving and maintaining employees' psychological health is now widely recognized by occupational health researchers and practitioners, business leaders, human resource professionals, and policy makers alike. Indeed, a growing body of research has established that psychological well-being is one of the most important factors in job performance. The Mindful and Effective Employee offers an evidence-based workplace training program based on acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT). The program is specifically designed to improve employees' psychological health—as well as their effectiveness at work and in their personal lives—through a combination of mindfulness and values-guided behavioral skills. This book is designed for use by psychologists, coaches, occupational health practitioners, and human resource professionals who are interested in improving employee well-being, performance, and quality of life. The training program described in this book is designed to:

- Promote employee self-awareness
- Help employees find purpose, direction, and meaning
- Offer new ways to improve work and life effectiveness
- Help employees identify and pursue valued goals and actions

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Trauma-Focused ACT Russ Harris, 2021-12-01
"Trauma-Focused ACT is going to go down as one of the great contributions to the field of trauma-informed care." —Kirk Strosahl PhD, cofounder of ACT Trauma-Focused ACT (TFACT) provides a flexible, comprehensive model for treating the entire spectrum of trauma-related issues, including post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), addiction, depression, anxiety disorders, moral injury, chronic pain, shame, suicidality, insomnia, complicated grief, attachment issues, sexual problems, and more. Written by internationally acclaimed ACT trainer, Russ Harris, this textbook is for practitioners at all levels of experience, and offers exclusive access to free downloadable resources—including scripts, videos, MP3s, handouts, and worksheets. Discover cutting-edge

strategies for healing the past, living in the present, and building a new future. With this compassion-based, exposure-centered approach, you'll learn how to help your clients: Find safety and security in their bodies Overcome hyperarousal and hypoarousal Break free from dissociation Shift from self-hatred to self-compassion Rapidly ground themselves and reengage in life Unhook from difficult cognitions and emotions Develop an integrated sense of self Resolve traumatic memories through flexible exposure Connect with and live by their values Experience post-traumatic growth

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: *Acceptance & Commitment Therapy for the Treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder & Trauma-related Problems* Robyn D. Walser, Darrah Westrup, 2007 An indispensable resource for mental health professionals, *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for the Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Trauma-Related Problems* offers a practical and accessible yet theoretically complete approach to using the principles of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and acute trauma-related symptoms.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: ACT for Adolescents Sheri L. Turrell, Mary Bell, 2016-05-01 In this much-needed guide, a clinical psychologist and a social worker provide a flexible, ten-week protocol based in acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) to help adolescents overcome mental health hurdles and thrive. If you're a clinician working with adolescents, you understand the challenges this population faces. But sometimes it can be difficult to establish connection in therapy. To help, *ACT for Adolescents* offers the first effective professional protocol for facilitating ACT with adolescents in individual therapy, along with modifications for a group setting. In this book, you'll find invaluable strategies for connecting meaningfully with your client in session, while at the same time arriving quickly and safely to the clinical issues your client is facing. You'll also find an overview of the core processes of ACT so you can introduce mindfulness into each session and help your client choose values-based action. Using the protocol outlined in this book, you'll be able to help your client overcome a number of mental health challenges from depression and anxiety to eating disorders and trauma. If you work with adolescent clients, the powerful and effective step-by-step exercises in this book are tailored especially for you. This is a must-have addition to your professional library. This book includes audio downloads.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: ACT Made Simple Russ Harris, 2019-05-01 NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER: Due to the recent illegal counterfeiting of this book, we cannot guarantee book quality when purchased through third-party sellers. Now fully-revised and updated, this second edition of *ACT Made Simple* includes new information and chapters on self-compassion, flexible perspective taking, working with trauma, and more. Why is it so hard to be happy? Why is life so difficult? Why do humans suffer so much? And what can we realistically do about it? No matter how rewarding your job, as a mental health professional, you may sometimes feel helpless in the face of these questions. You are also well aware of the challenges and frustrations that can present during therapy. If you're looking for ways to optimize your client sessions, consider joining the many thousands of therapists and life coaches worldwide who are learning acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT). With a focus on mindfulness, client values, and a commitment to change, ACT is proven-effective in treating depression, anxiety, stress, addictions, eating disorders, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder (BPD), and myriad other psychological issues. It's also a revolutionary new way to view the human condition—packed full of exciting new tools, techniques, and strategies for promoting profound behavioral change. A practical primer, ideal for ACT newcomers and experienced ACT professionals alike, *ACT Made Simple* offers clear explanations of the six ACT processes and a set of real-world tips and solutions for rapidly and effectively implementing them in your practice. This book gives you everything you need to start using ACT with your clients for impressive results. Inside, you'll find: scripts, exercises, metaphors, and worksheets to use with your clients; a session-by-session guide to implementing ACT; transcripts from therapy sessions; guidance for creating your own therapeutic techniques and exercises; and practical tips to overcome "therapy roadblocks." This book aims to take the complex theory and

practice of ACT and make it accessible and enjoyable for therapists and clients.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Brief Interventions for Radical

Change Kirk D. Strosahl, Patricia J. Robinson, Thomas Gustavsson, 2012-10-01 As a mental health professional, you know it's a real challenge to help clients develop the psychological skills they need to live a vital life. This is especially true when you are working with time constraints or in settings where contacts with the client will be brief. *Brief Interventions for Radical Change* is a powerful resource for any clinician working with clients who are struggling with mental health, substance abuse, or life adjustment issues. If you are searching for a more focused therapeutic approach that requires fewer follow-up visits with clients, or if you are simply looking for a way to make the most of each session, this is your guide. In this book, you'll find a ready-to-use collection of brief assessment and case-formulation tools, as well as many brief intervention strategies based in focused acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT). These tools and strategies can be used to help your clients stop using unworkable behaviors, and instead engage in committed, values-based actions to change their lives for the better. The book includes a practical approach to understanding how clients get stuck, focusing questions to help clients redefine their problem, and tools to increase motivation for change. In addition, you will learn methods for rapidly constructing effective treatment plans and effective interventions for promoting acceptance, present-moment awareness, and contact with personal values. With this book, you will easily integrate important mindfulness, acceptance, and values-based therapeutic work in their interactions with clients suffering from depression, anxiety, or any other mental health problem.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Learning ACT for Group Treatment

Darrah Westrup, M. Joann Wright, 2017-06-01 For many clients, group therapy is a more practical treatment option than one-on-one therapy sessions. The financial cost of group therapy is substantially less than individual therapy, and research shows it can be just as effective. However, group therapy also presents unique challenges, and is often more difficult to administer. That's why professionals need a solid plan of action when using group therapy to treat clients. In recent years, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) has gained immense popularity. Based in values, mindfulness, and committed action, this therapeutic model has proven successful in treating a number of psychiatric disorders, including anxiety, depression, stress, addictions, eating disorders, trauma, and relationship problems. However, despite the popularity of this modality, there are very limited resources available when it comes to applying ACT in a group setting. *Learning ACT for Group Treatment* is a comprehensive, powerful manual for clinicians, therapists, and counselors looking to implement ACT in group therapy with clients. A composite of stand-alone sessions, the book provides detailed explanations of each of the core ACT processes, printable worksheets, tips on group session formatting, and a wide range of activities that foster willingness, cooperation, and connection among participants. In the book, professionals will see how the benefits of ACT can actually be enhanced in a group setting, particularly because there are more participants for ACT exercises. This leads to increased accountability among clients, and allows them to play both an active role and the role of the observer during treatment. The book also includes concrete tips for applying ACT to a number of treatment scenarios, including inpatient group therapy, partial hospitalization programs, outpatient programs, and community self-help groups. With detailed exercises and group activities, this book has everything therapists need to start using ACT in group settings right away.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy*

Steven C. Hayes, Jason Lillis, 2012 Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is a unique empirically-based psychological intervention that uses acceptance and mindfulness processes, and commitment and behaviour change processes to produce psychological flexibility. Steven C. Hayes, who helped develop ACT, and co-author Jason Lillis provide an overview of ACT's main influences and its basic principles. In this succinct and understandable survey, the authors show how ACT illuminates the ways that language encourages unhelpful skirmishing in clients' psychic lives, and how to use ACT to help clients accept private experiences, become more mindful of thoughts,

develop greater clarity about personal values, and commit to needed behaviour change. The latest edition in the Theories of Psychotherapy Series. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy examines the therapy's history and process, evaluates the therapy's evidence base and effectiveness, and suggests future directions in the therapy's development..

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy For Dummies* Freddy Jackson Brown, Duncan Gillard, 2016-03-14 Harness ACT to live a healthier life Do you want to change your relationship with painful thoughts and feelings that are holding you back from making changes to improve your life? In *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy For Dummies*, you'll discover how to identify negative and unhealthy modes of thinking and apply Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) principles throughout your day-to-day life, creating a healthier, richer and more meaningful existence with yourself and others. Closely connected to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), ACT is an evidence-based, NICE-approved therapy that uses acceptance and mindfulness strategies mixed in with commitment and behaviour-changing strategies to help people increase their psychological flexibility in both their personal and professional lives. With the help of this straightforward and authoritative guide, you'll find out how to target unpleasant feelings and not act upon them—without sending yourself spiraling down the rabbit hole. The objective is not happiness; rather, it is to be present with what life brings you and to move toward valued behaviour. Shows you how to banish unhelpful thoughts Guides you to making room for painful feelings Teaches you how to engage fully with your here-and-now experience Helps you cope with anxiety, depression, stress, OCD and psychosis Whether you're looking to practice self care at home or are thinking about seeing an ACT therapist, *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy For Dummies* makes it easier to live a healthier and more productive life in spite of—and alongside—unpleasantness.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: **ACT in Practice** Patricia A. Bach, Daniel J. Moran, 2008 Every psychotherapeutic model needs literature that shows therapists how to conceive of real-life cases in terms of the particular treatment protocols of that model; ACT in Practice will be the first such case conceptualization guide for acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), one of the most exciting new psychotherapeutic models.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: 150 More Group Therapy Activities & TIPS Judith Belmont, 2020-04-23 Bestselling author Judy Belmont has created another treasure chest of hands-on and easy-to-use handouts, activities, worksheets, mini-lessons and quizzes that help clients develop effective life skills. *150 More Group Therapy Activities & TIPS*, the fourth in her Therapeutic Toolbox series, provides a wealth of psycho-educational ideas with Belmont's signature T.I.P.s format (Theory, Implementation, and Processing). Ready-to-use tools include: Interactive strategies for leading successful group experiences DBT, CBT, ACT and positive psychology-inspired resources Communication skills-building activities Coping skills using mindfulness and stress resiliency practices Self-esteem and self-compassion guides for changing thoughts Fun team building exercises and icebreakers Practical resources for adults, adolescents & children

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Getting Unstuck in ACT Russ Harris, 2013-07-01 Acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) is a powerful, evidence-based treatment for clients struggling with depression, anxiety, addiction, eating disorders, and a host of other mental health conditions. It is based in the belief that the road to lasting happiness and well-being begins with accepting our thoughts, rather than trying to change them. However, ACT can present certain roadblocks during treatment. As a mental health professional, you may adopt basic principles of ACT easily, but it generally takes at least two or three years of hard work and ongoing study to become truly fluid in the model. During that time, you will probably find yourself stuck at some point, and so will your clients. In *Getting Unstuck in ACT*, psychotherapist and bestselling author of *ACT Made Simple*, Russ Harris, provides solutions for overcoming the most common roadblocks in ACT. In the book, you will learn how to deal with reluctant or unmotivated clients, as well as how to get past certain theoretical aspects of ACT that some clients may find confusing. This book will help clients deal with sticky dilemmas and unsolvable problems, and will help simplify key ACT concepts to help you break down psychological barriers. Other common problems with ACT that the book addresses

are inconsistencies and sending mixed messages, talking and explaining ACT instead of doing it, being too eager to treat a client, being a Mr. Nice Guy or Ms. Nice Girl, or putting too much focus on one process while neglecting others. The chapters of the book are based in real life scenarios that take place between therapist and client, and the author provides feedback by analyzing mistakes in what was said and where improvements could be made. As more and more mental health professionals incorporate ACT into their practice, it is increasingly necessary to have a guide that offers them effective solutions to common ACT roadblocks. For that reason, this book is a must-have for any ACT therapist.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: ACT for Psychosis Recovery Emma K. O'Donoghue, Eric M.J. Morris, Joseph E. Oliver, Louise C. Johns, 2018-03-01 ACT for Psychosis Recovery is the first book to provide a breakthrough, evidence-based, step-by-step approach for group work with clients suffering from psychosis. As evidenced in a study by Patricia A. Bach and Steven C. Hayes, patients with psychotic symptoms who received acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) in addition to treatment as usual showed half the rate of rehospitalization as those who did not. With this important guide, you'll learn how a patient's recovery can be both supported and sustained by promoting acceptance, mindfulness, and values-driven action. The journey of personal recovery from psychosis is immensely challenging. Patients often struggle with paranoia, auditory hallucinations, difficulties with motivation, poor concentration and memory, and emotional dysregulation. In addition, families and loved ones may have trouble understanding psychosis, and stigmatizing attitudes can limit opportunity and create alienation for patients. True recovery from psychosis means empowering patients to take charge of their lives. Rather than focusing on pathology, ACT teaches patients how to stay grounded in the present moment, disengage from their symptoms, and pursue personally meaningful lives based on their values. In this groundbreaking book, you will learn how to facilitate ACT groups based on a central metaphor (Passengers on the Bus), so that mindfulness and values-based action are introduced in a way that is engaging and memorable. You will also find tips and strategies to help clients identify valued directions, teach clients how to respond flexibly to psychotic symptoms, thoughts, and emotions that have been barriers to living a valued life, and lead workshops that promote compassion and connection among participants. You'll also find tried and tested techniques for engaging people in groups, particularly those traditionally seen as "hard to reach"—people who may be wary of mental health services or experience paranoia. And finally, you'll gain skills for engaging participants from various ethnic backgrounds. Finding purpose and identity beyond mental illness is an important step in a patient's journey toward recovery. Using the breakthrough approach in this book, you can help clients gain the insight needed to achieve lasting well-being.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: The ACT Matrix Kevin L. Polk, Benjamin Schoendorff, 2014-03 If you are an ACT practitioner or mental health professional, this eagerly awaited resource is an essential addition to your professional library. Acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) is an evidence-based therapy that has been successful in treating a variety of psychological issues, such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse, trauma, eating disorders, and more. In contrast to other treatment options, ACT has proven extremely effective in helping clients who are "stuck" in unhealthy thought patterns by encouraging them align their values with their thoughts and actions. However, the ACT model is complex, and it's not always easy to use. Traditionally, ACT is delivered with a focus around six core processes that are often referred to as the hexaflex: cognitive defusion, acceptance, contact with the present moment, observing the self, values, and committed action. Each of these core processes serves a specific function, but they are often made more complex than needed in both theory and in practice. So what if there was a way to simplify ACT in your sessions with clients? Edited by clinical psychologists and popular ACT workshop leaders Kevin L. Polk and Benjamin Schoendorff, The ACT Matrix fuses the six core principles of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) into a simplified, easy-to-apply approach that focuses on client actions and behavior as workable or unworkable, rather than good or bad. Most importantly, you'll learn how this innovative approach can be used to deliver ACT more effectively in a variety of

settings and contexts, even when clients are resistant or unmotivated to participate. This is the first book to utilize the ACT Matrix model, and it is a must-read for any ACT practitioner looking to streamline his or her therapeutic approach.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Mastering the Clinical Conversation

Matthieu Villatte, Jennifer L. Villatte, Steven C. Hayes, 2019-09-06 This compelling book provides psychotherapists with evidence-based strategies for harnessing the power of language to free clients from life-constricting patterns and promote psychological flourishing. Grounded in relational frame theory (RFT), the volume shares innovative ways to enhance assessment and intervention using specific kinds of clinical conversations. Techniques are demonstrated for activating and shaping behavior change, building a flexible sense of self, fostering meaning and motivation, creating powerful experiential metaphors, and strengthening the therapeutic relationship. User-friendly features include more than 80 clinical vignettes with commentary by the authors, plus a Quick Guide to Using RFT in Psychotherapy filled with sample phrases and questions to ask. See also two works by Paul L. Wachtel--Therapeutic Communication, Second Edition, which provides another vital perspective on language in psychotherapy, and Making Room for the Disavowed, which integrates psychodynamic thinking with ACT and other contemporary approaches.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Contextual Schema Therapy

Eckhard Roediger, Bruce A. Stevens, Robert Brockman, 2018-06-01 In this groundbreaking book, three internationally recognized psychologists present a step-by-step guide outlining the most up-to-date innovations in schema therapy (ST). This important book offers a clear and practical road map for putting the schema mode model into practice, improving clients' interpersonal functioning, and integrates the latest advances in contextual behavioral psychology. ST is a powerful, integrative treatment model that combines aspects of cognitive, behavioral, and psychodynamic therapies. It has proven highly effective in treating a number of mental health issues, including difficult-to-treat personality disorders. ST's main premise is that mental health issues arise as a result of unmet emotional needs in childhood, leading to the development of early maladaptive schemas (EMS). But, more and more, ST has shifted away from EMS to focus on schema content—that is, changing the way clients relate to their experiences and to others. This book incorporates the latest findings in contextual behavioral science with a focus on clients' coping styles—or schema modes—and improving interpersonal functioning. The book includes exercises from compassion-focused therapies, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and even functional analytic psychotherapy (FAP) to help your clients become more aware of their own unhealthy coping patterns and behaviors. You'll also discover a range of emotion-focused and experiential techniques to use in therapy with your client.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Living Beyond OCD Using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy

Patricia E. Zurita Ona, 2021-01-27 This user-friendly workbook provides adults with obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), the tools they need to move beyond their disorder using Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and it also serves as compact text for clinicians/practitioners to use with clients suffering from OCD at any point in treatment. The workbook offers readers hands-on ACT and Exposure Response Prevention (ERP) skills for taming disturbing obsessions and filling the gap of where one stands and where one wants to go. Dr. Zurita provides evidence-based exercises to guide adults through the process of ACT. This includes learning to step back from one's thoughts and memories, opening up to all types of unwanted thoughts and feelings, paying attention to the physical world, observing one's thoughts and feelings, getting rid of barriers to values-based living, and developing consistent patterns of values-based behavior. Written from the office of a full-time therapist in a simple, uncomplicated, and unpretentious manner, this workbook will be useful for all clients suffering from OCD and for the therapists who work with them.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: ACT with Love

Russ Harris, 2023-06-01 Build more compassionate, accepting, and loving relationships with acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT). Let's face it: Picture-perfect storybook romances don't exist in real life. Couples fight.

Feelings of love wax and wane through the years. And the stress and tedium of everyday life and work can often drive a wedge between even the most devoted couples. So, how can you reignite passion and intimacy in your relationship, cultivate greater understanding and compassion between yourself and your partner, and bring the joy back to your love life? In this fully revised and updated edition of *ACT with Love*, therapist and world-renowned ACT expert Russ Harris shows how developing psychological flexibility—the ability to be in the present moment with openness, awareness, and focus, and to take effective action in line with one's values—can help you and your partner strengthen and deepen your relationship. Also included is new information on attachment theory, powerful mindfulness and self-compassion techniques, and assertiveness and boundary-setting skills. *ACT with Love* will show you how to: Let go of conflict, open up, and live fully in the present Use mindfulness to increase intimacy, connection, and understanding Resolve painful conflicts and reconcile long-standing differences Act on your values to build a rich and meaningful relationship If you're looking to increase feelings of intimacy, love, and connection with your partner, this book has everything you need to get started—together.

acceptance and commitment therapy workshops: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Eating Disorders Emily K. Sandoz, Kelly G. Wilson, Troy DuFrene, 2011-02-03 A

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their true values, and commit to positive change. But did you know that compassion focused exercises can also greatly increase clients' psychological flexibility? More and more, therapists are finding that the act of compassion—both towards oneself and towards others—can lead to greater emotional and physical well-being, increased distress tolerance, and a broader range of effective responses to stressful situations. One of the best advantages of compassion focused methods is how easily they can be integrated into an ACT approach. An important addition to any ACT professional's library, *The ACT Practitioner's Guide to the Science of Compassion* explores the emotionally healing benefits of compassion focused practices when applied to traditional acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT). This book offers case conceptualization, assessments, and direct clinical applications that integrate ACT, functional analytic psychotherapy, and compassion focused therapy to enhance your clinical practice. This is the first book on the market to provide an in-depth discussion of compassion in the context of ACT and other behavioral sciences. The integrative treatment model in this book provides powerful transdiagnostic tools and processes that will essentially build bridges across therapies. If you are ready for a new, easily integrated range of techniques that can be used for a variety of treatment applications, this guide will prove highly useful. And if you are looking to build on your previous experience with cognitive and behavioral therapies, this book will help to enhance your treatment sessions with clients and increase their psychological flexibility.

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activated. And by learning new skills when they're triggered, your clients will be able to replace avoidant and coping behaviors with values-based action for the betterment of the relationship. By making your clients' avoidant behavior the target of treatment— as opposed to their thoughts and beliefs—this skills-based guide provides the tools you need to help your clients change how they respond to their partner.

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