

What to Do When You Make a Mistake

Dos	Don'ts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compliment yourself for your courage and ingenuity in trying what you did.• Remain confident in your ability to excel.• Resolve not to repeat the same mistake.• Take responsibility for what you did. There is almost always another chance.• Do any necessary damage control.• Do what you can to make it right.• Apologize if others were involved.• Learn everything you can from it.• Try again immediately, but do it differently.• Feel confident you won't have to make that mistake ever again.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dismiss is an unimportant, unchangeable, or something you can't handle.• Berate yourself.• Blame anyone: yourself, someone else, or something else.• Try to ignore or overlook mistakes.• Decide to give up.• Expect sympathy.• Make excuses.• Repeat the same error.• Avoid trying again for fear of repeating the error.• Use it as evidence that you can't or won't succeed. <p>Worry endlessly about where you went wrong.</p>

Make Your Mistakes Where They Won't Hurt

Since mistakes are inevitable, especially in the beginning, arrange whenever possible to make your mistakes where they won't hurt you. Get the bugs out of your operation by doing trial runs. Then you can actually enjoy making mistakes, because you'll be able to find and correct them before they can do you any harm. For example, don't try out a new speech on a group that could make or break you. Volunteer to do it before a supportive group or friends or an appreciative community group.

Experience makes you effective, and experience is built on a history of corrected mistakes. That's why it's said that "practice makes perfect." You get perfect by making mistakes at times when it doesn't matter.