Creative Visualization

DUMMIES

Learn to:

- Use creative visualization to help you achieve your goals
- Live a happier, healthier life
- Become more confident and assertive
- Increase your energy levels and creativity



Robin Nixon

Bestselling author and entrepreneur

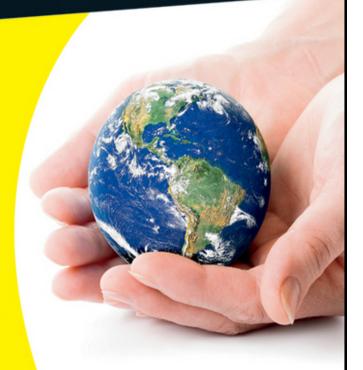
Making Everything Easier!™

Creative Visualization

DUMMIES

Learn to:

- Use creative visualization to help you achieve your goals
- Live a happier, healthier life
- Become more confident and assertive
- Increase your energy levels and creativity



Robin Nixon

Bestselling author and entrepreneur

Creative Visualization For Dummies®

Visit

www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/creativevisual izationuk to view this book's cheat sheet.

Table of Contents

Introduction

About This Book
Conventions Used in This Book
What You're Not to Read
Foolish Assumptions
How This Book Is Organised

Part I: Introducing Creative Visualization

Part II: Discovering How to Visualize

Part III: Visualization Exercises for a Happier,

Healthier Life

Part IV: Using Creative Visualization to

Achieve Success

Part V: The Part of Tens

Icons Used in This Book
Where to Go From Here

Part I: Introducing Creative Visualization

<u>Chapter 1: Unlocking the Power of Your Mind:</u> <u>Introducing Creative Visualization</u>

Discovering How Creative Visualization Works

Using the power of affirmations
Setting, re-affirming, and achieving goals
Improving skills with mental practice
Minimising and removing negative
emotions
Engendering a positive and motivating
attitude

<u>Making Changes in Your Life with Creative</u> Visualization

Listening to your inner self
Setting goals that you want to achieve
Changing unwanted behaviours to
desired ones
Achieving goals you previously thought
impossible

Exploring the Mind/Body Connection

Connecting your brain with your body
Thinking with your heart as well as your
mind
Using biofeedback to change your
emotions
Practising biofeedback visualizations
Believing that a technique is going to
work: The placebo effect

Knowing that losing belief can diminish results

<u>Chapter 2: Laying the Groundwork for Visualization</u>

<u>Deciding What You Want to Achieve</u>

Making a mind movie
Using the wheel of emotion
Modifying a behaviour: Stopping a >bad
habit or starting a good one

Believing That You Can Achieve Change

Visualizing attaining a goal
Keeping goals realistic
Making positive affirmations
Overcoming obstacles

<u>Imagining Yourself Having Achieved</u>

Taking ownership of the changes you want to make
Picturing feeling proud of yourself
Focusing on flashbacks and flashforwards
Considering what you're going to do next

<u>Chapter 3: Reaping the Benefits of Creative Visualization</u>

Discovering the Conscious Benefits

Feeling better about yourself
Becoming motivated and achieving more
goals
Developing greater energy

Looking at the Unconscious Benefits

Reducing stress and anxiety
Obtaining peace of mind
Feeling fulfilled
Tracking your progress

Enjoying the Physical Benefits

Becoming fitter
Helping you to lose weight
Increasing your stamina
Reducing your aches and pains
Lowering your blood pressure

Part II: Discovering How to Visualize

<u>Chapter 4: Exploring the Different Types of</u> Visualization

<u>Understanding Unguided Visualization</u>

<u>Defining daydreaming</u>
<u>Dreaming lucidly</u>
<u>Visualizing on the spur of the moment</u>

Getting to Grips with Guided Visualization

Following a visualization plan
Using audio or video assistance
Being guided by a friend or relative
Using mental flash cards

Writing Down Your Visualizations

Chapter 5: Preparing Yourself for Change

Wanting to Change

Knowing that you must truly want something to change
Making the change one of your main desires
Anticipating the change eagerly

Making Room for Change

Modifying your regular routines
Accepting that your assumptions may
change
Knowing that your life is going to be
different

Welcoming the Changes

Understanding that all changes are part of the overall plan
Seeking ways to accommodate the good and shun the bad
Incorporating the changes into your way of life

<u>Chapter 6: Choosing the Best Times and</u> Locations for Effective Visualization

Being Able to Concentrate

Choosing your visualizing space
Preventing interruptions
Finding your best times of day
Clearing your schedule

<u>Understanding the Role of the Unconscious</u> <u>Enhancing Your Visualizations</u>

Going somewhere you love
Playing your favourite music
Watching specially created videos

<u>Part III: Visualization Exercises for a Happier,</u> <u>Healthier Life</u>

<u>Chapter 7: Being Happier and More Fulfilled</u>

Starting with a Simple Visualization Staying Calm Looking on the Bright Side

Understanding why positive thinking works

Being optimistic

Realising you do have power

Seeing light at the end of the tunnel

Recognising that the sun will rise

tomorrow

Being Proud of Your Successes

Recognising your successes
Remembering how you succeeded
Realising what your successes bring to
your life

Focusing on Good Things

Enjoying friends and family
Appreciating nature and wildlife
Savouring food and drink
Indulging in hobbies and activities
Loving being alive

Seeing Yourself as a Source of Good

Having compassion for others
Radiating love
Remembering to listen
Praying for other people
Being a healer
Encouraging success

<u>Chapter 8: Overcoming Uncontrolled Anger and</u> Stress

<u>Understanding Why You Have Strong</u> <u>Emotional Responses</u> <u>Controlling Your Temper</u>

<u>Isolating and managing known triggers</u> <u>Turning anger into humour</u> Explaining why you're unhappy
Developing your ability to forgive
Letting off steam in your head

Keeping Yourself Calm

Going to a quiet and safe place
Lowering your voice
Taking time out
Focusing on existence
Stopping thinking

Reducing Stress

Exercising regularly
Comparing yourself with people worse off
Imagining yourself in two years' time
Using imaginary balloons to float away
bad thoughts
Visualizing meditation
Focusing on a single positive outcome

Chapter 9: Finding More Motivation and Energy

Incentivising Yourself

Turning desire into motivation

Focusing on the rewards

Imagining a difficult project has been completed

Receiving payment for a job well done Looking forward to recognition for your work

Making tedious tasks important

<u>Turning Around Apathy and Procrastination</u>

Doing something because you want to
Breaking big tasks into smaller parts
Using mind movies to view the whole
project
Seeing yourself doing a better job each
day
Listening to your motivational theme
tune

<u>Harnessing the Power Within</u>

Recognising the energy within you
Unleashing your inner life force
Building your inner feeling of strength
Drawing on your willpower

Absorbing Power from Outside

Refreshing yourself with spiritual energy
Sunbathing mentally in light, heat, and
other energy
Breathing in the life-giving power of
oxygen

<u>Chapter 10: Being Healthy and Banishing Bad</u> Habits

<u>Having a Healthy Body and Mind</u>

Using positive thinking in healing
Building strong core muscles
Looking after your heart
Building stamina
Becoming happy and contented
Being eager to learn

Quitting Smoking

Scaring yourself
Looking at the good news
Running up the stairs
Tasting your food
Living to a ripe old age
Reducing the addictive hold

Reducing Alcohol Consumption

Sleeping well without drinking
Waking up healthy and hangover free
Building your mental pile of cash
Replacing your cravings
Making it boring

Eating Less

Feeling completely full Savouring every bite Viewing a slimmer you Avoiding yo-yo dieting

Chapter 11: Overcoming Fears and Phobias

<u>Using the Anxiety Meter</u> <u>Preparing to Do Battle with Your Fear</u>

Wanting the problem gone
Knowing that you can be free from the
fear
Seeing how you feel when the fear is
gone

Turning the Issue into a Non-Issue

Creating positivity points

Making your fear ridiculous

Reducing the size of the fear

Imagining that you like what you fear

Visualizing the fear already gone

Overcoming the Problem

Confronting the problem head on Imagining the fear never existed
Watching the scary thing run away
Denying your fear any nourishment
Finding the positive in what you fear

Focusing on the Future

Going forwards in time
Looking back and laughing
Seeing all you can now do without the
problem
Denying your fear a visa
Maintaining a border patrol

Testing Your Cure

Chapter 12: Fostering Strong Relationships

Avoiding and Handling Conflict

Knowing that arguments seldom solve anything
Avoiding quarrelling
Managing opposing views or interests
Reducing your need to be right
Respecting opinions and beliefs

Overcoming Shyness

Surprising yourself
Taking note of what people say
Breaking the routine
Taking the initiative
Sharing your passions

Building Mutual Trust and Respect

Being loyal
Being honest
Respecting other people
Standing up for someone
Keeping confidences

Growing Your Friendship

Being a good listener Sharing your thoughts Offering support or lending a helping hand
Enjoying mutual interests

Part IV: Using Creative Visualization to Achieve Success

<u>Chapter 13: Cultivating Confidence:</u>
<u>Strengthening Your Self-belief with Creative Visualization</u>

<u>Improving Your Feeling of Self-worth</u>

Re-affirming belief in yourself
Recognising your own value
Reconsidering how others perceive you
Valuing yourself as equal to others
Remembering the importance of integrity

Speaking the Right Body Language

Practising good posture

Making and holding eye contact

Mirroring the moves of other people

Listening with more than your ears

Overcoming Public Speaking Nerves

Being properly prepared
Speaking with conviction
Pacing yourself

Managing Mistakes and Setbacks

Facing up to your 'faux pas'
Forgiving yourself
Letting go of your mistakes by laughing
about them
Supporting other people when they make
a mistake
Living, learning, and moving on:
Accepting mistakes as a part of life

<u>Chapter 14: Succeeding in the Workplace:</u> Creative Visualization as a Leg Up in Leadership

Visualizing to Achieve Success as a Leader

Aiming for excellence

Maintaining high standards

Injecting a little innovation

Outshining your competitors

Using previous successes to inspire new ones

Gaining Respect as a Leader

Conducting yourself with confidence
Offering encouragement
Choosing to be trustworthy
Practising tolerance and respect
Being reliable

Communicating Your Vision

Sharing your enthusiasm

Demonstrating your commitment

Making decisions and justifying them

<u>Visualizing in order to Motivate Your Team</u>

Providing focus
Setting challenges
Meeting milestones
Building camaraderie
Encouraging growth

<u>Chapter 15: Attaining Sporting Excellence</u>

Stretching Your Ability

Going the extra mile

Becoming stronger and faster every day

Doing your best plus a little more

Cheering yourself on

Seeing how you achieved a goal

Being a Winner

Breaking the ribbon
Standing on the winner's podium
Making the highest jump or longest leap
Hitting the bull's-eye
Scoring the winning goal

Enhancing Your Physique

Feeling energy pulsing through you Striving to be ever stronger Imagining endless stamina

Exuding health and vitality Visualizing the perfect body

Being a Good Sport

Playing fair
Being a team player
Respecting coaches and officials
Losing gracefully
Winning with class

<u>Chapter 16: Achieving Success in Education and the Workplace</u>

Excelling in Education

Loving to learn
Passing on the best things you find out
Standing on the shoulders of giants
Being forever curious

Passing Exams with Flying Colours

Accessing your mind library to retrieve information easily
Looking things up in your mental encyclopaedia
Creating mental mnemonics
Viewing your revision pin board

Landing a Superb Job

Being the perfect candidate

Knowing that you have the ideal qualifications

Taking the long-term view

Never giving up

Getting a Promotion or Rise

Knowing your value
Thriving on responsibility
Being ready to expand
Imagining you've already achieved what
you desire
Overcoming obstacles and objections

<u>Chapter 17: Becoming More Creative</u>

Coming Up with New Ideas

Seeing yourself as a source of creativity
Mixing and merging your ideas
Following random thoughts
Going on hunting expeditions through
your mind
Riding the idea train

Thinking on Your Feet

<u>Turning an idea on its head</u> <u>Playing inverse snap</u>

Getting Really Creative

Imagining colour blindness (or the opposite)
Reshaping 'the box'
Using synonym strings
Surfing through your mind
Holding that thought

Overcoming Creative Blocks

Climbing the mental mountain to see over the other side

Flying over your mindscape like a bird

Being a fly on the wall in an idea factory

Part V: The Part of Tens

<u>Chapter 18: Ten Instant Visualizations to Promote</u> Your Wellbeing

Remembering to Laugh and Smile
Increasing Your Love of Life
Dismissing Your Negative Thoughts
Encouraging Positive Thoughts
Being Thankful
Having Purpose in Your Life
Feeling Needed
Being at One with the Universe
Striving to Improve Yourself
Saying 'Yes, I Can'

<u>Chapter 19: Ten Great Settings for Creative Visualization</u>

Finding Somewhere Quiet and Comfortable
Listening to the Radio or an Audio Player
Doing the Housework
Travelling from A to B
On Holiday or a Day Trip
Participating in Meetings or Talking on the
Phone
Attending an Event
Taking a Walk
Lying in Bed
Visualizing Anywhere

<u>Chapter 20: Ten Places to Discover More about Creative Visualization</u>

Creative Visualization by Shakti Gawain
The Art of True Healing by Israel Regardie
The Mental Edge by Kenneth Baum
Think and Grow Rich by Napoleon Hill
Creative Visualization Blog
Guided Meditation and Visualization YouTube
Video
Making Creative Visualization Part of Your Life
YouTube Video
I Create Everything, Visualize Self Healing
YouTube Video
Empowering Personal Development Website
Success Consciousness Website

<u>Chapter 21: Ten Goals that Creative Visualization</u> <u>Can Help You Achieve</u> Alleviating Anxiety
Becoming Healthier
Enhancing Your Creativity
Strengthening Your Self-belief
Building Confidence
Achieving Goals
Providing Focus
Improving Your Body Language
Increasing Your Energy
Finding Fulfilment

Cheat Sheet

Creative Visualization For Dummies $^{(B)}$ by Robin Nixon



A John Wiley and Sons, Ltd, Publication

Creative Visualization For Dummies®

Published by
John Wiley & Sons, Ltd
The Atrium
Southern Gate
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 8SQ
England

E-mail (for orders and customer service enquires): <u>cs-books@wiley.co.uk</u>

Visit our Home Page on www.wiley.com

Copyright © 2011 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Chichester, West Sussex, England

Published by John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, Chichester, West Sussex

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except under the terms of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 or under the terms of a licence issued by the Copyright Licensing Agency Ltd, Saffron

House, 6-10 Kirby Street, London EC1N 8TS, UK, without the permission in writing of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Ltd, The Atrium, Southern Gate, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 8SQ, England, or emailed to permreq@wiley.co.uk, or faxed to (44) 1243 770620.

Trademarks: Wiley, the Wiley Publishing logo, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, A Reference for the Rest of Us!, The Dummies Way, Dummies Daily, The Fun and Easy Way, Dummies.com and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc. and/or its affiliates in the United States and other countries, and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Wiley Publishing, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

Limit of Liability/Disclaimer of Warranty: The contents of this work are intended to further general scientific research, understanding, and discussion only and are not intended and should not be relied upon as recommending or promoting a specific method, diagnosis, or treatment by physicians for any particular patient. The publishe, the author, AND ANYONE ELSE INVOLVED IN PREPARING THIS WORK make no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this work and specifically disclaim all warranties, including without limitation any implied warranties of fitness for a particular purpose. In view of ongoing research, equipment modifications, changes in governmental regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to the use of medicines, equipment, and devices, the reader is urged to review and evaluate the information provided in the package insert or instructions for each medicine, equipment, or device for, among other things, any changes in the instructions or indication of usage and for

added warnings and precautions. Readers should consult with a specialist where appropriate. The fact that an organization or Website is referred to in this work as a citation and/or a potential source of further information does not mean that the author or the publisher endorses the information the organization or Website may provide or recommendations it may make. Further, readers should be aware that Internet Websites listed in this work may have changed or disappeared between when this work was written and when it is read. No warranty may be created or extended by any promotional statements for this work. Neither the publisher nor the author shall be liable for any damages arising herefrom.

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002.

For technical support, please visit www.wiley.com/techsupport.

Wiley also publishes its books in a variety of electronic formats. Some content that appears in print may not be available in electronic books.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data: A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-119-99264-6 (paperback), 978-1-119-99342-1 (ebook), 978-1-119-99421-3 (ebook), 978-1-119-99420-6 (ebook)

Printed and bound in Great Britain by TJ International, Padstow, Cornwall

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1



About the Author

Robin Nixon is a technology and motivational author who has written books for McGraw-Hill and O'Reilly, as well as publishing over 500 articles on topics including technology, self help and the environment. He has been the director of Internet and software development companies in both the UK and US, as well as running hotel and dining businesses in both countries. For the last 25 years Robin has practiced creative visualization on a daily basis in both his personal and business lives. This is Robin's 9th book.

Author's Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Nicole Hermitage for commissioning this book, Kerry Laundon, Jo Jones, Mike Bryant, Andy Finch, Carrie Burchfield, Jennifer Bingham and Charlie Wilson for helping me to bring it to completion, and everyone else who has helped to create this book, and without whom it would not be the same.

Dedication

For Julie

Publisher's Acknowledgements

We're proud of this book; please send us your comments through our Dummies online registration form located at www.dummies.com/register/.

Some of the people who helped bring this book to market include the following:

Commissioning, Editorial, and Media Development

Development Editors: Jo Jones and Charlie Wilson

Commissioning Editors: Nicole Hermitage and Kerry Laundon

Assistant Editor: Ben Kemble

Development Editor: Brian Kramer

Copy Editor: Andy Finch

Technical Editor: Mike Bryant

Proofreader: David Price

Publisher: David Palmer

Production Manager: Daniel Mersey

Cover Photos: © iStock / Dmitry Melnikov

Cartoons: Rich Tennant (<u>www.the5thwave.com</u>)

Composition Services

Project Coordinator: Kristie Rees

Layout and Graphics: Cheryl Grubbs, Kim Tabor

Proofreader: Broccoli Information Management

Indexer: BIM Indexing & Proofreading Services

Brand Reviewers: Carrie Burchfield and Jennifer Bingham

Introduction

People have known that creative visualization works for thousands of years, but only recently have they named the practice and put it through studies to prove its efficacy. *Creative visualization* is based on the simple observation that when you imagine something, such as a goal in life you wish to attain, you're then able to bring that desire to fruition. In fact, often only by first visualizing something can you develop the idea or ignite the creative spurt that goes off in your brain like a light bulb.

But creative visualization isn't just useful for being creative; it's also a powerful personal development tool you can use to modify traits that are making you unhappy, increase your levels of energy and stamina, become more confident, and enjoy life more fully.

Almost without knowing it, we all use visualization on a daily basis when daydreaming, or thinking about people, places, and things. Visualizing is something we do naturally, which creative visualization simply harnesses into a more structured form.

Furthermore, creative visualization can help you to achieve goals in life that you've otherwise found hard to achieve. Using powerful visualizations you can clearly focus on your aims, set the right goals, and imagine attaining them. By doing so you bring forth the desire and commitment to overcome obstacles and stick with your ambitions until you achieve them.

This book also shows you how to use creative visualization to overcome anxiety and phobias, increase your mental and physical wellbeing, improve your sleeping patterns, revise for exams more efficiently, overcome procrastination, and much, much more.

With such a range of benefits resulting from bringing creative visualization into your life, reading this book and trying the exercises can open up a whole new way of thinking and living, and can help you make the changes you want in your life.

About This Book

Unlike other personal improvement systems you may have tried, I believe that creative visualization is the most natural and easy means of achieving the changes in your life that you desire. After you get the hang of creative visualization, the techniques are so obvious that you may wonder why you never used them before. And you also begin to see results very quickly, which in turn spurs you on to keep going and use creative visualization even more in your life.

And making creative visualization part of your life is so easy! After you've practised visualizing a few times, you barely notice that you're visualizing because the techniques become entirely embedded in your regular routine and merge into your way of life. More than that, though, because you can make the visualizations as beautiful as you like, they're a joy to use and you enhance your life simply by practising them.

This book's main aim is to get you started on the road to bringing creative visualization into your life. The practice has worked wonders for me and thousands of other people, and I know that once you get these techniques under your belt, your enjoyment of life and sense of fulfilment is going to be greater than ever.

Please note, however, that wherever I mention the ability of creative visualization to help with your personal health – for example, by assisting you to become more relaxed and lower

your blood pressure – I'm not suggesting that you ignore medical advice in preference to these techniques. Far from it, in fact. Modern medicine has a tremendous ability to help with all manner of illnesses and ailments, so always consult a doctor or licensed practitioner when you first notice any health problem. Always think of creative visualization as an enhancement that helps increase the effectiveness of everything you undertake – including professional medical treatment – and not a replacement for it.

Conventions Used in This Book

To help maximise the clarity of information in this book I adopt a few conventions:

- Italics are used for emphasis and to highlight new words or define terms.
- **▶ Boldface** is used to indicate the key concept in a list.
- ✓ A monofont is used for web and email addresses.

Also, when I refer to the psychological concept of the *unconscious mind*, if you prefer you can read this as the better-known term *subconscious mind*. Either term refers to a sort of consciousness bubbling underneath your main consciousness and which remains alert and active at all times. You may also choose to think of this mind as the soul.

Within each chapter you find a set of mental flash cards, which you're more than welcome to replace with your own, and I encourage you to do so. The best visualizations are the ones