RUNDERWEAR[™]

5km TRAINING PLAN BEGINNER

Created by Tom Craggs England Athletics Running Coach



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5km BEGINNER

TRAINING PLAN



THE PLAN

This plan is aimed at runners who are new to structured training and who may not have tried to run a fast 5km before but who can run 20-30 minutes + continuously.

COMPLETING THE PLAN

The majority of the sessions are runs, but you can replace with cardiovascular cross training using a bike, rowing machine, swimming or elliptical trainer. You might see cross training included in the plan to – these are labelled as 'XT'. Take ownership of the plan and adapt it to suit your situation, background and needs. If you need to swap days run not to do two runs harder than 7/10 effort on back to back days. It's fine to add more running but always remember you need to recover well to progress and you are better to do a little less than too much. If you are tired, sore, have a cold or are worried about a niggle stop, rest and if necessary speak to a physio or medical expert. Only start on this training plan if you feel confident in your health and we always recommend undergoing a medical check up with a professional before undertaking any running training plan.

GUIDING YOUR EFFORT

The plan is written to time and perceived effort to make it flexible for runners at different levels, running over different terrain and in different weather conditions. As you build confidence you will learn what the right pace is for you on the 0-10 scale of rate of perceived exertion (RPE).

| | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------|--------|--|-----------|--|--------|
| WEEK 1 | Rest | Run Session: 20 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 4 sets of 4 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 90-120s brisk walk recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest |
| WEEK 2 | Rest | Run Session: 20-30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 3 sets of 5 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 90-120s brisk walk recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest |
| WEEK 3 | Rest | Run Session: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 4 sets of 5 minutes at 6-7/10 effort with 90-120s brisk walk recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest |
| WEEK 4 | Rest | Run Session: 20-30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Run Session: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest |
| WEEK 5 | Rest | Run Session: 30 min run as: 10 mins easy at 2-3/10, 10 mins steady at 4-5/10, 10 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort | Rest | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 6-8 sets of 90 secs at 8-9/10 effort with 90s rest or jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest |
| WEEK 6 | Rest | Run Session: 30-40 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 5 sets of 3 minutes at 8-9/10 effort with 120s rest or jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest |
| WEEK 7 | Rest | Run Session: 30 min run as: 10 mins easy at 2-3/10, 10 mins steady at 4-5/10, 10 mins at controlled discomfort 6-7/10 effort | Rest | Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort with the final 10 at 6-7/10 if you feel good | Rest |
| WEEK 8 | Rest | Warm up: 10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort Main Session: 6 x 40s fast at 9/10 with 60-70s jog recovery Cool down: 5-10 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest | Run Session: 20 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Rest |

| RPE SCALE | WHAT IT MIGHT FEEL LIKE | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| 0 | Sat at home in your armchair | | |
| 1 | Brisk walking for some, very easy jogging for others. Able to fully converse with no effort. | | |
| 2-3 | Easy running, able to hold a full conversation, you might have consciously work to slow down. Gentle, relaxed, feeling like you could run forever. | | |
| 4-5 | Steady running. Able to speak but in shorter sentences. You might hear yourself breathing but could still keep going for between 75 minutes – 2 hours. | | |
| 6-7 | Controlled discomfort. A pace you could hold for around 60 mins in a race. You should be able to speak 2-3 words at a time. Cruising at speed. | | |
| 8-9 | Working hard at 3km-10km effort. You have to focus and work to maintain pace. You'll be breathing strongly and will feel like you need the recovery between efforts. | | |
| 10 | Working very hard. A effort you can sustain for only short periods before you effort feels unsustainable. | | |

| SATURDAY | SUNDAY |
|---|---|
| Rest or Run/XT: 20 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 30-40 min easy run at 3-4/10 effort with short brisk walk breaks if needed |
| Rest or Run/XT: 20 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 30-40 min easy run at 3-4/10 effort with short brisk walk breaks if needed |
| Rest or Run/XT: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 40 min easy run at 3-4/10 effort with short brisk walk breaks if needed |
| 2km time trial, or Rest if tired | Run Session: 30 mins at 2-3/10 effort |
| Rest or Run/XT: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 40-50 min easy run at 3-4/10 effort with short brisk walk breaks if needed |
| Rest or Run/XT: 30-40 min easy run at 2-3/10 | Run Session: 50-60 min easy run at 3-4/10 effort with short brisk walk breaks if needed |
| Rest or Run/XT: 30 min easy run at 2-3/10 effort | Run Session: 40-50 mins at 3-4/10 effort with short brisk walk breaks if needed |
| 5K RACE!! GOOD LUCK! | Rest |