

# Writing SMART Goals

Most people start with an outcome goal. An example of an outcome goal is: *“The overall goal I want to reach is to live healthier and lose two inches around my waist.”*

To reach an outcome, you must have behavior goals. For example: *“I will walk five days a week for 30-60 minutes a day.”*

The chart below shows a brainstorming process to break this behavior goal down into a weekly SMART behavior goal. This is an example of what the final weekly SMART goal might be: *“This week I will walk 15 minutes a day at a brisk pace for three days.”*

Breaking down the steps to writing a **Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART) goal.**

Goal Component	Example
<p><b>SPECIFIC</b> What, when, where, and how will the behavior be done?</p>	<p><i>I will walk regularly (at least five days a week) in the morning to help me reduce inches around my waist.</i></p>
<p><b>MEASURABLE</b> How much, how many, and/or how often will you do the behavior?</p>	<p><i>I will walk 30-60 minutes a day at a brisk pace five days a week.</i></p>
<p><b>ATTAINABLE</b> What are your steps to meet or reach your goal? Set your goal low enough to be reached, but high enough to be a challenge.</p>	<p><i>I will start walking 15 minutes a day for three days a week and work up to 30 minutes a day for five days a week. Seven days might be too high (no room for unexpected events or illness). One day is too low and not enough to help me lose inches.</i></p>
<p><b>RELEVANT</b> Is it the right behavior goal to help you meet your overall outcome? Is it a good time in your life to be setting this goal?</p>	<p><i>Now that my children are back in school and the holidays are over I can start walking in the morning.</i></p>
<p><b>TIME-BOUND</b> Make sure your goal includes a specific time frame in which you will achieve it.</p>	<p><i>I will increase my time each week by five minutes until I reach 30 minutes a day. I will add an extra day every two to four weeks until I reach 30-60 minutes for five days a week.</i></p>

**Now it's your turn. Write and track your own SMART goal.**