

# Triggers



**Trigger:** A stimulus—such as a person, place, situation, or thing—that contributes to an unwanted emotional or behavioral response.

## The Problem

Describe the problem your triggers are contributing to. What's the worst-case scenario, if you are exposed to your triggers?


## Trigger Categories

Just about *anything* can be a trigger. To begin exploring your own triggers, think about each of the categories listed below. Is there a specific emotion that acts as a trigger for you? How about a person or place? List your responses in the provided spaces.

<b>Emotional State</b>	
<b>People</b>	
<b>Places</b>	
<b>Things</b>	
<b>Thoughts</b>	
<b>Activities / Situations</b>	

## Tips for Dealing with Triggers

- Oftentimes, the best way to deal with a trigger is to avoid it. This might mean making changes to your lifestyle, relationships, or daily routine.
- Create a strategy to deal with your triggers head on, just in case. Your strategy might include coping skills, a list of trusted people you can talk to, or rehearsed phrases to help you get out of a troublesome situation.
- Don't wait until the heat of the moment to test your coping strategy. *Practice!*



In this section, you will develop a plan for dealing with your three biggest triggers. Review your plan regularly, and practice each of the strategies.

**Describe your three biggest triggers, in detail.**

#1	
#2	
#3	

**Describe your strategy for *avoiding or reducing exposure* to each trigger.**

#1	
#2	
#3	

**Describe your strategy for dealing with each trigger head on, when they cannot be avoided.**

#1	
#2	
#3	