

Simply Slim

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Hello and welcome to our short, introductory weight loss guide for beginners. I hope you will join us right through to the end as we embark on a discovery of simple secrets to permanent weight loss.

According to a survey done in 2014 by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, over 70% of the population in the United States are considered overweight, obese, or extremely obese.

When looking at statistics like this, it's no surprise that heart disease is the leading cause of death among Americans considering it's one of the biggest side effects of being overweight.

Dangers of Being Overweight

If you are overweight, you are putting yourself at an increased risk of developing a number of dangerous health conditions.

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Although genetic and other lifestyle factors do come into play when it comes to many of these conditions, obesity will certainly increase your risk of developing them.

Here are some of the conditions that obesity increases your risk of developing:

- Heart disease
- Stroke
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Gallbladder disease
- Gallstones
- Osteoarthritis
- Gout
- Sleep apnea
- Asthma
- Cancer

Why Lose Weight

In addition to decreasing or even eliminating your risk of developing these conditions, there are a number of reasons that you will want to lose weight if you are obese.



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Here, we're going to list just some of the advantages to losing extra weight and getting your body to a normal, healthy body weight. Some may surprise you, but studies have proven all of these benefits of losing weight.

Here are some of the benefits of losing excess weight:

- Higher salary/pay
- Improved cognitive function
- Food tastes better
- Increased libido
- Decreased dependency on certain medications
- Less general pain/discomfort
- Better sleep
- More energy
- Enjoy more activities
- Healthier hair and skin
- Save money

With all of these dangers that come from being overweight and the benefits that come from losing weight, it's easy to see that there is a definite need to be healthy.

Unfortunately, this can be difficult for a number of reasons, several of which we'll be getting into in the next section, so keep reading to find out more about what it will take for you to lose weight.

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Chapter 1 – Get Your Head In The Game

For everyone that is overweight, there are one or more reasons that they can't seem to lose weight, but unless they have a legitimate medical condition that is preventing them from losing weight, then the biggest barrier is their mentality. There are several reasons that many people share that can make it difficult or even impossible to lose weight.

You Think of Food the Wrong Way

For many people, food is a way to comfort or entertain themselves. They eat not because they're hungry or because they need to sustain themselves, but because they're sad, happy, or bored. Often, the foods we eat when we're sad are high in carbohydrates and unhealthy fats, and are known as "comfort foods" because they comfort us.

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Instead, you have to start thinking about food for what it actually is: a tool that you're using to provide nutrients to your body. It can make you gain weight or lose weight depending on how you use it. It can make you healthier and even cure various afflictions if you're using it right, or it can make you sick by causing new conditions or worsening existing ones.

You're Not Willing to Change Your Habits

Most of weight loss and weight maintenance is about having good habits. However, for many people, they feel stuck in their ways and aren't willing to change their habits for the long term. A crazy crash diet can help you lose weight fast, but you won't be able to keep it off for long since you most probably will go back to your old habits as soon as you've dropped a few pounds.

To lose weight and then keep it off, you have to be willing to change your habits, particularly when it comes to eating.

Everything you are is a result of your habits, from where you are in your job to the way your house looks and how much you weigh. Cutting out bad habits and replacing them with good ones is the only way that you'll be able to get yourself healthy.

Your Weight is Connected to Psychological Problems

For some people, a bad relationship with food and bad eating habits are connected with deep psychological problems related to shame and a fear of getting close to people. They feel ashamed of being obese, but eat as a way of dealing with the shame. Or, they are afraid to be vulnerable with people and see their extra weight as a way to keep people from getting too close to them.

It may be hard to admit, but if you fall into this category of having these deep-seated issues, then you won't be able to start your weight loss journey until you get professional help to deal with these problems. Just as you would see a medical doctor for a medical condition that you can't solve yourself, you shouldn't feel ashamed to seek help from a doctor to get help from a psychological problem.

Once you get your head in the game and are mentally prepared to lose weight, it's time to move onto the next step in the

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preparation process before you can start your weight loss journey.

Chapter 2 – Getting Prepared

Before jumping into any new diet plan to lose weight, it's important to prepare yourself. For one thing, if you don't know where you're starting from, then it'll be hard to see the progress you're making since weight loss can often be slow and steady. So, here are a few things that you should make sure you do before you start your weight loss journey.

Get Your Health Evaluated

If you have not yet been evaluated by a doctor regarding your weight, now is the time to do it. For some people, it's impossible for them to lose any weight because they have an underlying medical condition. One of the most common conditions that causes weight gain is hypothyroidism.

With hypothyroidism, many of your body's processes are slowed down, including your metabolism, making it impossible for you to lose weight no matter what you do. This is because you will be working against your body. In order to lose weight, you will have

to work with your doctor first to correct the hormone problem with medication.

Another important reason to see your doctor before you get started is if you are going to be starting to exercise as part of your weight loss journey. Although food is the most important part, exercise can certainly help to boost your weight loss. For that reason, you'll want to make sure you get the all-clear from your doctor to start an exercise regimen.

Write Out Your Goals

You should have two basic types of weight loss goals, one primary, long-term goal and smaller milestones that will help you reach that goal and keep you motivated. Carefully evaluate where you currently are and where you want to be. Then, set a realistic long-term goal, whether you want to lose 30 pounds in a year, or 100 pounds in 5 years.

Once you have your long-term goal in place, then you can set up your milestones. Usually, the best way to do this is to divide the total weight loss that you're hoping for into 5- or 10-pound

increments. You should also set specific timelines for these as well. Something to keep in mind, however, is that you will likely lose weight faster at the beginning, so give yourself some wiggle room as you go.

Set Up Your Rewards

At each milestone and of course at the end of the long-term goal, you should set up a reward for yourself so it's something that you can look forward to. What's more important than the size of the reward is that it's not food-related. Letting yourself eat an entire chocolate cake because you lost a pound kind of defeats the purpose of having lost the pound.

Some good rewards may include going out to see a movie, buying a fashion accessory, going to a sport's game, or even going on a trip somewhere that you've always wanted to visit. Whatever it is, having that reward to be excited about will help keep you motivated to keep pushing through even when you're having a difficult day.

Make Your Baseline

Your baseline is your starting point. It will be something to look back on and remember how far you've come. Start by calculating your BMI, weighing yourself, taking "before" pictures, and measuring your body. This will be hard for some people, but it's important to know so you can really see your progress since sometimes the mirror alone makes it hard to see a difference.

You'll want to measure the circumference of several parts of your body because that will help you track your weight loss more than the scale alone. Be sure to use a non-stretching tape measure. You'll also need to keep it parallel to the floor and at the same height all around the body part you're measuring, and lay it on your skin without pulling it too tight.

The parts of your body you will want to measure to track your weight loss are:

- Chest. For men, measure around the thickest part of the chest. For women, measure directly under the breasts.
- Bust. For women only, measure around your breasts, keeping the measuring tape in line with your nipples.

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- Waist. This measurement is taken around the narrowest part of your torso, which is usually right above your belly button.
- Midway. Take this measurement halfway between where you took your waist measurement and the widest part of your hips.
- Thigh. While standing, measure the thickest part of your upper leg.
- Knee. For this, you'll want to measure right about your knee.
- Calf. Measure this part of your lower leg around at the widest part.
- Upper arm. Take this by measuring around the fullest part of your upper arm.
- Forearm. Measure around the thickest part of your forearm, usually slightly below the elbow.

Educate Yourself

The good news is, by reading this guide, you're already doing this. And, all you have to do is keep reading to be able to learn even more about how you can lose weight and keep it off. Soon,

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you'll learn more about how different types of nutrients work with your body, what the best weight loss diet plan is, and get tips for fast, effective, and lasting weight loss.

Chapter 3 – Nutrition & Diet Overview

There are two main keys to losing weight by dieting: **WHAT** you put into your body, and **HOW MUCH** you're putting into your body.

If you're like most people that are overweight or obese, they're not putting the right things into their body and they're putting in too much of them. So, let's take a minute to talk about both of these.

Macronutrients

Macronutrients are the three primary types of nutrients that you put into your body: carbohydrates, proteins, and fats. Of course each of these can be broken down further into subcategories since there are different types of each, but we're going to focus only on the most important things you need to know about each of these macronutrients.

Carbohydrates

Carbohydrates get their name from what they're made of, as their molecules contain carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen. Included in this type of macronutrient are sugars, starches, and fiber. The primary purpose of carbohydrates is to provide energy for the body. Contrary to popular belief, not all carbohydrates are bad. In fact, many people who eat diets high in carbohydrates are thin and healthy.

You should be eating a diet that's fairly low in carbohydrates as you will soon see, because your body can also get energy from fat. When you do include carbs in your diet, make sure they're complex ones like those which are found in whole wheat, because these will be broken down slowly by your body and release sugars into your blood stream slowly.

Simple sugars like the refined white sugar that gets added to more foods than you thought possible will wreak havoc on your body. When released into the blood stream by your digestive tract, they cause your blood sugar levels to spike. This triggers the release of insulin which often removes too much, then causes

your blood sugar levels to crash, leading you to crave more carbs and start the cycle over again.

Another problem caused by these simple sugars is weight gain. Part of the sugar molecule is also processed in the liver, but it can only process so many at once. Any additional carbs are then converted into stored fat. For many people, it's the consumption of simple sugars that causes weight gain in the first place and prevents weight loss.

Proteins

Proteins are molecules that are made up of amino acids. The source of the protein will determine which amino acids it contains. Protein found in egg, for example, is different from the type of protein that you will find in soy. They are all broken down and absorbed by your body at different rates, and the amino acids they contain do a number of things in your body.

One of the primary purposes of protein is to build muscle. That means if you're doing strength-training exercises as part of your weight loss program, you need to be especially vigilant to be sure

that you are getting enough protein in your diet so that your muscles will be built up as you damage them during strength training.

In terms of losing weight, protein is important because it will help you feel full for longer. Protein molecules are the most complex of the macronutrients and therefore take longer for the body to break down. This can help reduce your food cravings after you've eaten since your body is still working on the protein you ate.

Fats

Fats can be broken down into two basic categories: saturated fats and unsaturated fats. Saturated fats are also known as solid fats and are solid at room temperature. Most saturated fats come from animals and animal products. Unsaturated fats are liquid at room temperature, and mostly come from plants as well as fish.

A common misconception is that eating fat will make you fat. As mentioned before, eating sugar will make you fat. But, if you're eating the right kinds of fat, then you'll actually lose weight. A diet high in saturated fats can lead to weight gain and high cholesterol levels. However, a diet high in unsaturated fats will help keep your cholesterol low and help you lose weight.

Fat is used in the body for energy, and it also helps to store certain important vitamins, like A, D, and K. Some types of unsaturated fats, like omega-3 fatty acids, also help with brain function and other important functions in your body. Because the best weight loss diets involve relying on fat for energy, it's vital to be getting enough healthy fats.

Calories

A calorie is actually a way to measure energy. It is defined by the amount of energy it takes to raise one gram of water by one degree Celsius. You get calories from the food you eat, 4 calories from each gram of carbohydrates or protein, and 9 calories from each gram of fat. Your body requires energy for every process it does, and it gets this energy from burning calories.

What you need to know about calories and weight loss is that there are about 3500 calories per pound of body weight. That means in order to lose a pound, you need to burn 3500 calories beyond what your body is already burning for its normal functions. It also means that every time you gain a pound, it means you've eaten 3500 calories more than your body needed.

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Although some weight loss plans encourage you to exercise like crazy to burn these extra calories, it's easier to let your body do the work for you and simply not eat as many calories in the first place. The number of calories that your body requires per day varies by how much you weigh, your activity level, your age and gender, and your climate.

Because a deficit of calories is one of the most important parts of losing weight, there have been a number of diets that revolve around counting calories, which means tracking how many calories you're eating at every meal and burning at every activity. Although this sounds hard, as we'll discuss soon, it's not as difficult as it sounds

Chapter 4 - Proven Principles of Long Term Weight Loss & Healthy Eating

Why experiment with your body and waste your time trying to find the best weight loss solution when there are plenty of proven principles of long term weight loss? The truth is that by following a few proven principles, you can lose weight and keep it off in the long term. You don't have to follow the latest diet trends or do any crash dieting.

Track Calories and Macronutrients

The first step is to limit your caloric intake, as we mentioned in the previous section. By choosing foods that are low in calories but high in good macronutrients, you'll be able to lose weight just by allowing your body to work as it normally does. When limiting your caloric intake, choosing foods that are high in protein and fiber is an important part of feeling full for longer so you don't eat more than you should.

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The best way to see how many calories you're eating is to track them. Fortunately, there are a number of apps that you can use to track your calories. Simply input the food that you're eating, about how much of it you're eating, and you'll be able to see exactly how many calories you've eaten.

Because the source of your calories is just as important, many apps will break down your caloric intake by macronutrient type. For most people that are overweight or obese, aim for getting 25% of your daily calories from carbohydrates, 35% from protein, and 40% from fat.

If you find that you're not losing enough weight like this after several weeks, you can start tweaking your diet until you're getting the results you want. Then, stick with that ratio. Since every body is different, there's no "one-size-fits-all" when it comes to a balance of macronutrients, so you may find that you need more or less of one type.

Meal Planning

One thing that makes it hard to lose weight is if you're always eating on the go or trying to throw together meals at the last minute. If you're serious about your weight loss, you need to get organized and start planning all of your meals in advance. You can do it for a week, two weeks, or even a month at a time, depending on what you're comfortable with.

The first step to successful meal planning in order to lose weight is to put together a list of foods that will fit with your new diet, and to organize them by macronutrient. You could also come up with a list of recipes that contain the right balance of macronutrients for weight loss. However you decide to do it, you'll then need to sit down and make your meal plan.

Later on, we'll provide a week-long sample schedule that will help give you a better idea of what meal planning for weight loss should look like. Although it can be a bit of work to get started, it will help you lose weight for the long term. You can also save money by meal planning since you'll be able to buy just what you need for the week.

Get Support

Support is just as important to your weight loss journey to how many calories you're eating every day. In fact, a number of studies have shown how much of a difference emotional support makes for people that are working to lose weight in whether or not they keep it off. One of the most popular weight loss plans, Weight Watchers, is built around this idea of support being needed for weight loss.

Whether you find support in friends, family members, or even a community on the internet, it's the best way to help you reach your goals during your weight loss journey and then keep the weight off when you've gotten to your ideal weight and size. The sooner you put this support system into place, the better chances you have.

Weight Loss Diet Accelerated

The best way to accelerate your weight loss through dieting is to focus on a low-carb diet that keeps your body in a state of ketosis. Once you get your meal planning down and your diet tweaked so that you're able to lose weight, it's easy to maintain a

state of ketosis that will help you lose weight more quickly and then continue to keep it off.

What is Ketosis?

Ketosis is a state in which your body is burning fat for energy instead of glucose. This is a process that kicks in naturally at night when you're sleeping, but you can keep it going throughout the day by limiting your carbohydrate intake so that your body keeps using fat for fuel instead of the glucose that it pulls from carbs.

What causes ketosis to accelerate your weight loss is that when you're combining it with a low-calorie diet, your body looks for fat to burn when it needs to use energy, so when it's not getting it from food, it starts targeting stored fat. This means that the extra calories you're burning come directly from fat so you'll see the weight loss sooner.

Chapter 5 - Exercise

Another way to accelerate your weight loss is by exercising. There are two types of exercise, and both of them are important parts of helping you to lose weight because they have two different effects on your body. If you want to lose weight fast, you'll need to do both strength training and cardio training.

Strength training is important because it builds muscle. At rest, muscle burns more calories than fat which means your body's metabolism will be higher and you'll be able to burn more calories during the day than before. This is important because as you lose fat, your metabolism will slow because you don't need as many calories to maintain that fat.

Cardio exercises are ones that get your heart rate up which we will cover more in depth below. These burn large amounts of calories, and can help accelerate your weight loss by increasing the number of calories you burn throughout the day. Some types of cardio exercises will also give your metabolism a boost even after you're done exercising so you can benefit from that as well.

How To Boost Your Results From Traditional Aerobics/Cardio

Let's start with a simple fact. Traditional aerobics, or long duration, low intensity cardio, is not the be all end all when it comes to either weight loss, or overall health and fitness.

For starters, the number of calories burned are relatively low for the amount of time put in, much lower than most people realize. A typical thirty minute cardio session of fast walking or jogging, outside or on the treadmill, only burns about 150 to 300 calories, hardly a life changing number. This is easily negated by a beer or two, a couple of tablespoons of peanut butter or even a bagel with a little cream cheese!

Aerobics also does nothing for keeping or building lean muscle, which helps to boost your metabolism and positively reshape the body.

Okay, so that kills the idea of using aerobics for fat loss. Well, not so fast. It's not completely useless for fat loss, plus it can have some important health benefits, too.

First, let's go with cardio as the term instead of aerobics. It just sounds better. Athletes do cardio. Aerobics is for 80's women in leggings and drugged up bodybuilders in brightly colored clown pants leaning out for a contest. And that's not us!

We're talking about exercises using the largest muscles of the body that elevate the heart rate and allow you to do thirty minutes or more at a steady state or do interval training.

This means a lot of different exercises like:

Walking / Jogging / Running

Rowing

Elliptical Machine

Treadmill

Stationary Bike

Stair Climbing (the machine or actually running stairs)

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Bodyweight exercises and calisthenics (jumping jacks, squats, skater hops, burpees, etc.)

Sports (like tennis, basketball, racquetball, etc.)

And many more!

Yes, the first one is walking, jogging and running. They can have their place, provided you don't overdo it and that they are part of an overall plan that includes resistance training. You can also combine them into an interval training workout, such as hard running for 30 seconds, followed by 60 seconds of walking and repeating for "X" number of rounds.

Also, walking, while not the best calorie burner in the world, has fantastic overall health benefits. Everyone should walk for twenty to thirty minutes a day if at all possible.

A great way to use traditional aerobics to boost your fat loss results is to include a shortened session immediately after an intense resistance training session.

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A key to making this effective is using a resistance training program that is intense and gets the heart rate elevated. We're talking about maximizing fat burning, not doing singles on the bench press with five minutes of rest between sets.

Your resistance training workout should include short rests between sets and even techniques like supersetting, where you perform two different exercises back to back without rest. For example, you might do a set of bent over dumbbell rows for ten repetitions, followed by a set of dumbbell bench presses for ten repetitions. You would then rest thirty to sixty seconds and repeat.

It's also important that you perform full body workouts and not split routines where you might just work your arms one day, your legs another day, your chest on a third day, etc. Perform three full body workouts per week on nonconsecutive days, such as Monday, Wednesday, Friday or Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday.

When you perform a full body intense resistance training workout of twenty to thirty minutes and then add ten to twenty minutes of cardio immediately after, you greatly increase your fat burning

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results. You don't waste time getting your body “ready” in the first ten or fifteen minutes. You've already tapped into your glycogen stores from the resistance training, you've already elevated your heart rate, and now your body is primed and ready to keep burning calories from your cardio, starting from minute one.

In short, use a cardio session immediately following an intense resistance training session that utilizes short rest periods between sets (or interval training style), and a full body workout.

Perform a normal aerobic session (that sometimes is done in interval training style), on your non-weight training days for thirty to forty-five minutes. Do not always use the same exercise. Your body is highly efficient and the number of calories you burn the first time you go running will not be the same as the tenth time if you always do the same thing. Use a variety of exercises like in the list above, to keep your body guessing and your metabolism revving.

Chapter 6 – Sample Weight Loss Meal Plan For A Week

While we would love you to learn more about food choices and a menu that suits you, the foods you enjoy, while also being delicious and affordable, we know it's difficult.

Here is a sample weight loss meal plan that provides you with 3 meals a day for 7 days. It will give you a good idea of what you can expect to eat while following a low-carb diet and show you how easy it is to stick with this diet since there are plenty of delicious meal options.

While the meals are listed below, the recipes are not. Google the low carb recipe and you will have many varieties to choose from, so pick which one suits you

After this sample meal plan, you'll find a few tips to creating a meal plan you can stick with.

In order to keep your body in a state of ketosis where you're only burning fat for energy, then you'll need to eat less than 50 grams of carbs per day. As you mix and match different low-carb meals, keep that in mind and always give yourself some extra "wiggle room" since you'll likely also be eating a few snacks along the way and may be getting more carbs per meal than what are actually listed.

Monday

Breakfast: Spinach and Egg Frittata (4 grams of carbs per serving)

Lunch: Asian Beef Salad (11 grams of carbs per serving)

Dinner: Meat Pie (7 grams of carbs per serving)

Tuesday

Breakfast: Low-Carb Pancakes (5 grams of carbs per serving)

Lunch: Chicken and Cabbage Soup (4 grams of carbs per serving)

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Dinner: Pork Chops with Green Beans (6 grams of carbs per serving)

Wednesday

Breakfast: Egg Sandwiches (2 grams of carbs per serving)

Lunch: Keto Italian Plate (8 grams of carbs per serving)

Dinner: Cabbage Stir Fry (10 grams of carbs per serving)

Thursday

Breakfast: Bacon Omelet (3 grams of carbs per serving)

Lunch: Tuna Salad (6 grams of carbs per serving)

Dinner: Ground Beef Tacos (12 grams of carbs per serving)

Friday

Breakfast: Dairy-Free Latte (1 gram of carbs per serving)

Lunch: Quesadillas (5 grams of carbs per serving)

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Dinner: Salmon and Cheesy Broccoli (6 grams of carbs per serving)

Saturday

Breakfast: Scrambled Eggs (1 gram of carbs per serving)

Lunch: Avocado, Bacon, and Goat Cheese Salad (6 grams of carbs per serving)

Dinner: Hamburger Patties with Creamy Tomato Sauce (11 grams of carbs per serving)

Sunday

Breakfast: Coconut Porridge (4 grams of carbs per serving)

Lunch: Shrimp, Artichoke, and Hard-Boiled Egg Plate (6 grams of carbs per serving)

Dinner: Low-Carb Pizza (10 grams of carbs per serving)

Breakfast Tip

When it comes to breakfast, you may want to pick one of these low-carb meals that you love and stick with making that every day. That can make it easy to whip up every morning without having to think too much about what you're going to make. Since breakfast is the most rushed meal of most people's days, keeping it as simple as possible will help ensure that you eat it.

Lunch Tips

If you're like most working people, you don't have time to go home and prepare yourself lunch at home every day. However, this is vital for the success of your weight loss plan since finding low-carb options in fast food places and restaurants is extremely difficult. If you don't already pack yourself a lunch, then you'll need to start doing that to stick with your diet.

Packing your lunch in the morning can be hard, so something you can do is cook extra the night before. Before you even eat dinner, pack your lunch for the next day so you won't be tempted to have seconds during dinner. Then, all you have to do in the morning is pull your lunch out of the fridge and take it with you.

Dinner Tip

For people cooking for a family, dinner can be the most difficult meal, especially if there are picky children involved. The best way to deal with picky eaters when trying to eat a low-carb diet is to make sure that you have other options for them.

Fortunately, many of these meals are easy to include some carbs with to satisfy everyone at the table.

Snack Tip

Although we didn't include snacks in the meal plan, you'll likely want to include some throughout your day. Snacking in between meals can help keep you from over-eating at mealtime and can help keep you focused at work since you won't be feeling hungry. Make sure you prepare your snacks in advance so they're easy to grab and go.

Chapter 7 – Tips For Healthy Food Shopping

If you don't want to ruin your diet by eating junk food, then you have to make sure that you're only buying healthy foods. Fortunately, by following a few tips, then you can keep junk food completely out of your home.

Here are some of our tips for healthy food shopping:

Always Have a List

Before you leave the house, make sure you write out a list of exactly how much you need. If you're doing meal planning, all you have to do is go through your schedule of meals for the week to figure out exactly what you need to shop for. Then, unless you're 100% sure that you're out of something that's not on your list, stick to that list and don't buy anything unless it's on the list.

Eat Before You Go

If you go to the store hungry, you're far more likely to buy more food than you need and to gravitate towards junk food. So, make sure that you eat a big snack or even a meal before you leave the house. You'll also avoid the temptation to stop at a fast food place on the way there or back. Although not all fast food is bad, it's easy to eat far more calories, carbs, and sodium than you normally would.

Don't Linger

The longer you spend in the store, the more likely you are to see something you don't need and buy it. So, rather than walking up and down each aisle, use your list as a guide and only get what you need, then get out. If you do find yourself lingering, try setting a time limit for yourself from the time you enter the store to the time you get to the checkout counter.

Check Labels

Taking just a few moments to check food labels before buying can help keep you from accidentally buying junk food. Always buy whole foods when possible like fresh fruits and vegetables instead

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of canned versions, which often have added sodium or sugars. Nearly everything you find in a package will have preservatives and other additives that you want to avoid.

Added sugars can be found in a surprising variety of foods, so always read through the ingredient list to make sure you're not being tricked by clever packaging that claim to be healthy or "natural". Some added sugars to avoid include fructose, corn syrup, and dextrose. Artificial sweeteners can be just as bad for you, so be on the lookout for aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, xylitol, and sorbitol.

Chapter 8 – Beginner Mistakes To Avoid

The beginning of your diet is the most important part because it will help you ensure your future success. This is because the new habits that you'll establish as you begin will be the most likely to stick with you, so you need to make sure you go into your new diet with the right mindset and prepared to follow it closely to succeed.

Here are some beginner mistakes to avoid:

Focusing Too Much on Avoiding Carbs

There's a lot more to a low carb diet than not eating carbs, and this is a huge mistake for many beginners. Rather than worrying so much about what you can't eat, focus on what you can eat and make sure that the foods you're choosing are healthy and good for you. You also need to make sure you're getting plenty of fiber which is a carb but doesn't get absorbed by your body.

Getting Stressed

While stress seems to be inevitable for many people, you have to do what you can to eliminate the stress that's in your life if you want the best chance at losing weight. Stress releases a hormone known as cortisol which blocks fat-burning processes in your body, preventing weight loss. Take whatever steps you need to relieve stress in your life.

Not Getting Enough Sleep

When you get the right amount of sleep, your body will be well-rested and ready to properly process the foods that you put in it during the day. It will also limit the stress in your life. Getting the right amount of sleep is important, because too much or too little will both negatively impact weight loss. Adults need to be getting between 7 and 9 hours of sleep every night.

Trusting Food Packaging

As mentioned before, you need to check the actual label and ingredient list before you buy food since a food only needs to be 10% naturally-derived to be able to call itself "natural." Many treats that are labeled "low carb" are just meant to draw you in

to buy them, but they often have more carbs than they imply and have dangerous artificial sweeteners in them.

Eating Artificial Sweeteners

Artificial sweeteners are often just as bad for you as actual sugar which is why you need to avoid these just as much as sugars and carbs. Many of them will still cause spikes in your blood sugar levels and some can increase your cravings for actual carbs, which will make it difficult to stick to your diet and continue losing weight.

Skipping Meals

Although it may sound like a good idea to skip a meal in order to lower your caloric intake during the day, you shouldn't skip meals. What generally happens when you do that is that by the time you get to the next meal, you're feeling extremely hungry and end up over-eating or indulging in the carbs your body begins to crave when it's feeling low on energy.

Conclusion – Long Term Health Planning

Congratulations on making it to the end of this short, introductory report on simple secrets to permanent weight loss.

You may be surprised to know that the majority of people who start something never complete it.

Take your time and progress at your own pace. This is not a race. The more you understand and comprehend what is happening when you undertake a permanent weight loss course the better

If you really want to succeed at losing weight, then everything you do for your diet must be with long-term health planning in mind. These changes you're making and the diet you're following are not meant to be temporary. They're meant to be part of a

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new lifestyle that you follow in order to keep off the weight that you lost and help keep you healthy.

As you take this leap into a new diet for your health, remember that, and leave all of your old bad habits behind you. Keep looking to the future and keep in mind all the benefits that you will gain from losing the extra weight you've been carrying around. Your future will be much longer now, which means you'll have more time to enjoy life as you move forward

Bonus Chapter - Resources & Apps to Aid in Weight Loss

Don't think that you have to do everything on your own. There are a number of tools that can help you with your weight loss journey. Here, you can find some resources and apps to aid in weight loss.

Keto Diet App

If you want an easy way to find low-carb recipes and do all of your meal planning with a few touches of a screen, then the Keto Diet App is the way to go. It has over 450 low-carb recipes that you can search through and choose from, and the option of creating your own low-carb meals. You'll also have access to the website through the app which gives you tips, tricks, and additional information.

You can find more information about the Keto Diet App here:

<https://ketodietapp.com/>

Ketone Meter

There are several ways to test the level of ketones that your body is producing as a result of burning fat for energy. Keeping track of these is the most accurate way to know for sure if you're doing your low-carb diet correctly since they show exactly how much fat your body is burning. Ideally, your level should be between 0.5 and 3.0.

The most accurate ketone meters work the same way as glucose meters test blood sugar levels for people with diabetes. These require you to prick your finger to test your levels. You can get some that test both blood sugar levels and ketones with just one strip. If you don't want to prick your fingers every day, you can also get urine strips, though these aren't quite as accurate.

Fitness Tracker

One simple way to improve your health is to make sure you keep yourself moving. And one of the best ways to do that is to get a fitness tracker. There are a number to choose from depending on what else you may want to use it for, but the simplest are the

fitness bands that will let you know how many steps you took each day.

Set yourself a minimum goal of 4,000 steps to begin with, then keep raising your goal until you're taking 10,000 steps every day. This one simple change will help you be healthier and lose weight more quickly. It's also important if you work in a job where you spend a lot of time sitting down that you stand up at least every 90 minutes and move around for 5 to avoid a number of dangerous health conditions.

Diet Coach

It may sound extreme, but having a personal diet coach may be just the thing you need to keep your diet on track and get the most out of your weight loss. Although it's best to get a diet coach that's in your area that you can meet with as often as you need, you can also try looking online to find someone who will work with you to answer all of your questions.

