

Cultural Daily

Independent Voices, New Perspectives

How Cultural Fashion Influences Modern Wardrobes

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

Take a moment and look at your wardrobe. What inspires the styles, patterns, and pieces hanging there? Is it a collection of minimalistic classics, or does it burst with vibrant prints and bold designs? Whether you realize it or not, the chances are high that different cultures from across the globe influence most of the clothing choices hanging in your closet.

From the bohemian patterns popularized by Indigenous artisans to the intricate embroidery seen in Middle Eastern attire, cultural fashion has significantly imprinted modern wardrobes. Let's explore six distinct points that illustrate how the fascinating world of cultural fashion influences modern wardrobes.

Globalization and the Cross-Pollination of Styles

Globalization and digital media have turned the world into one big living room. Because of this, fashion has broken the banks of geographical boundaries, and styles once considered niche have become mainstream.

Cultural fashion from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America has received global praise and continues influencing major fashion houses and streetwear brands.

For example, Japanese street style has inspired collections from **high-end designers**, while African prints now adorn everyday wear, creating a rich tapestry of globally inspired garments. This cross-pollination has made it possible for a traditional Mexican serape or a bold Ankara print dress to be just as trendy in Paris or New York as in its place of origin.

Cultural Patterns and Fabrics in Streetwear and High Fashion

Cultural elements such as vibrant prints, embroidery, and unique fabrics are becoming part of streetwear and high fashion. For example, African Ankara prints, known for their bold patterns and bright colors, have seamlessly made their way into everything from casual T-shirts to evening gowns. Similarly, Middle Eastern kaftans, traditionally loose-fitting robes, have become a popular choice for stylish outerwear and beachwear.

Platforms like **Trendyol** curate collections that make culturally inspired pieces and styles accessible and affordable to a wider audience, including in regions like Saudi Arabia, where cultural diversity significantly shapes fashion trends.

The Rise of Cultural Appreciation Over Appropriation

In the past, traditional motifs, textiles, and styles were often co-opted without acknowledging their roots, leading to controversy. However, the current trend of **appreciation rather than appropriation** emphasizes understanding and respecting the origins of these designs.

Brands and designers now collaborate directly with artisans from indigenous and ethnic communities to create pieces celebrating cultural heritage while ensuring fair compensation and recognition. This conscious approach helps bridge the gap between honoring cultural identities and creating innovative designs that appeal to global consumers.

Modern Interpretation of Traditional Attire

Traditional clothing often carries deep symbolic meanings and ties to specific customs and ceremonies. Modern designers, however, are finding creative ways to reinterpret these garments to fit contemporary aesthetics.

For instance, designers have transformed the Indian sari, once primarily reserved for formal occasions, into casual chic wear by incorporating modern cuts, fabrics, and styling.

Similarly, innovative designers have adapted elements of the Chinese Cheongsam, known for its high collar and figure-flattering fit, into everyday dresses that maintain their elegance while being suitable for casual settings.

This **modern reinterpretation of cultural attire** enables people to express their heritage in a way that aligns with their everyday, modern lifestyle.

Fashion as a Tool for Storytelling and Identity

Fashion has always been more than just clothing; it's a powerful medium for storytelling and identity. People use fashion to express their roots, beliefs, and values. Incorporating cultural elements into modern attire allows individuals to tell their unique stories and make a statement about who they are.

For example, indigenous prints from the Americas, such as the Navajo patterns, tell stories of ancestry, history, and cultural pride. By wearing these prints in contemporary designs, wearers connect with their heritage while making it accessible and understandable to others.

Creating a Unified Global Fashion Identity

Fusing cultural elements into modern fashion slowly creates a unified yet diverse global fashion identity. While people continue to celebrate their unique backgrounds, there is also a shared appreciation for different cultures. This multicultural aesthetic allows individuals to blend pieces from various traditions to create personal and universally appealing outfits.

For instance, pairing a Moroccan-inspired kaftan with Japanese geta sandals or combining Indian jewelry with Scandinavian minimalism results in a look that defies traditional labels.

Conclusion

This blending of styles symbolizes a new fashion narrative that values diversity, embraces

individuality, and fosters a deeper connection between cultures. As global societies infuse ethnocentric elements into daily wear, we can expect cultural fashion to continue influencing modern wardrobes long into the future.

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7 Innovative Financial Management Tips For Creative Entrepreneurs

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As a creative professional, managing finances can feel like a chore, but once you take the plunge into entrepreneurship, dealing with and keeping your books in order is indispensable.

Moreover, financial management need not be dull or overwhelming, and with a few clever strategies even managers with not an iota of financial knowledge can make this their strong suit while staying true to their creative sides.

In this article, we lay out seven clever tips to better manage your finances, and not let it ruin the day for you, or ruin your prized creative spark in the process.

1. Embrace Budgeting, But Make It Creative

Budgeting is not about restricting yourself, far from it. It is rather about giving each and every cent and dollar a purpose. This is what ‘Zero-Based Budgeting’ which has gained a lot of traction off-late, and is particularly useful for creatives, is all about.

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Here again, there are plenty of tools that can come to your aid, with YNAB or You Need A Budget being a popular choice.

2. Automate Your Finances With Smart Apps

Automation has been a game-changer for businesses of all sizes, particularly when it comes to activities such as accounting, reporting, and financial management. Apps like QuickBooks, FreshBooks, and Wave do a great job of helping small businesses, freelancers, and creatives better manage their finances.

They help you keep everything in order, without having to keep your head buried in spreadsheets for hours at a stretch. From invoicing to expense tracking, with automated reminders and alerts to

keep your cash flows steady, these are complete financial suites that you can access for just \$16 to \$30 a month.

You can also find several tools focused on particular verticals, with features aimed at particular industries, such as CRMs for creatives, or **customer management software for alarm companies**, among others.

3. Separate Personal & Business Finances

A lot of artists and creatives make the mistake of keeping their personal and **business finances** entangled, which results in a great deal of problems and complications down the road.

It is recommended to keep a separate business bank account, along with a credit card to handle all of your business transactions, keeping it separate from personal finances. This makes it a lot easier to track expenses, determine profitability, claim deductions, and manage cash flow.

Even as a solo creative, treating your finances with the professionalism of a larger business can make a huge difference in the long run.

4. Leverage Micro-Investments to Grow Your Cash

Investing doesn't have to be intimidating or reserved for those with deep pockets. **Micro-investing** platforms like Acorns, Robinhood, and Stash make it easy to start investing small amounts regularly.

Over time, these little investments can grow significantly and provide a financial cushion or fund future creative ventures. It's a great way to let your money work behind the scenes while you focus on your art.

5. Get Smart With Taxes

As a creative entrepreneur, you can deduct a wide range of expenses, from software subscriptions to part of your home rent if you have a dedicated workspace. Keeping track of these expenses can save you a lot at tax time.

Using digital tools like Expensify to organize your receipts and categorize your expenses throughout the year helps simplify the tax process and ensures you don't miss out on potential savings.



6. Diversify Your Income Streams

Relying on one source of income is risky, especially when work can be unpredictable. Diversifying income streams, like selling digital products, offering online courses, or licensing your work, can stabilize your finances.

Platforms like Etsy, Gumroad, and Patreon offer accessible ways to monetize your skills and creativity beyond client work, helping you build a more resilient and profitable business model.

7. Plan For The Future With Small But Regular Savings

Savings aren't just about preparing for emergencies, they're also about seizing opportunities when they arise. Regularly setting aside a portion of your income into a separate savings account, especially one that earns interest like a high-yield savings account, can make a significant difference over time.

This "opportunity fund" can help you make bold moves, like investing in new equipment or taking time off to focus on a major project, without the stress of financial insecurity.

Final Thoughts

Financial management doesn't have to be a burden, it can be a part of your creative process. By using these innovative tips, you can set up a financial system that supports your work, keeps stress in check, and empowers you to take on new challenges.

Embrace the right tools, keep your money organized, and give yourself the financial freedom to explore your next big idea.

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Wondering What's Going to be Big Next Year? Here's 2025's Hottest Sustainability Trends

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

As 2025 approaches, the shift towards sustainability in business is more than just a buzzword—it's a demand that's reshaping industries across the globe. Consumers, governments, and even businesses themselves are pushing for greener practices. With new innovations and cutting-edge approaches to sustainability popping up everywhere, it's clear that eco-friendly trends are not only here to stay but will be major players in the future economy. So, what should we be watching for as we move into 2025?

Circular Economy Gains More Momentum

At the heart of sustainability is the idea of a circular economy—one that eliminates waste by keeping products and materials in use for as long as possible. While this isn't exactly a fresh concept, the ways it's being applied are evolving. Gone are the days when recycling was the only way to go green. Now, industries are looking at rethinking entire supply chains. This could mean everything from using more sustainable raw materials to embracing closed-loop systems that turn waste back into usable resources.

Take for instance [cardboard tray manufacturers](#), who are stepping up as leaders in the circular economy movement. By creating eco-friendly packaging solutions that can easily be recycled or reused, they're reducing the need for virgin materials and minimizing waste. What makes this even better is the public's growing appreciation for brands that show genuine care for the planet. As we move into 2025, expect this trend to grow even further, with more companies looking at ways to close the loop and reduce their environmental footprint.

Green Energy Tech Set to Boom

With fossil fuels slowly fading into the background, renewable energy is taking center stage, and in 2025, green energy tech will be front and center. From wind farms and solar arrays to advanced battery storage, expect energy solutions to become even more efficient and accessible. As governments roll out more incentives and businesses adopt greener alternatives, the shift to renewable power is accelerating faster than ever.

What's new in 2025? Smart grids that optimize energy use in real-time, ensuring that cities and businesses can reduce energy waste. We're also likely to see more companies integrating solar panels and wind turbines into their operations, not just to reduce their carbon footprint but to lower costs over time. The beauty of this shift is that sustainable practices are no longer a cost burden—they're becoming cost-effective and profitable in the long run.

Biodegradable Products on the Rise

Plastic pollution has been a constant issue for decades, but 2025 promises to be a year of serious change. Biodegradable products are breaking into mainstream markets like never before. Think of packaging that decomposes in months rather than centuries or materials that return to the earth without leaving a toxic trail behind.

One of the most exciting advancements is in biodegradable plastics made from plant-based materials instead of fossil fuels. As governments place more restrictions on single-use plastics and consumers demand cleaner alternatives, businesses are scrambling to adapt. Whether it's compostable cutlery, eco-friendly shopping bags, or biodegradable textiles, these products will become even more commonplace. It's no longer just a niche for eco-conscious shoppers—it's going to be a requirement for businesses looking to stay relevant.

Franchise Businesses Adopting Sustainability (And Thriving)

Sustainability isn't just for big corporations—franchises are catching on, too. With the rise of eco-conscious consumers, franchise businesses are realizing that going green is not just a trend but a necessity for survival in 2025. Many franchises are already reducing their environmental impact by sourcing locally, using eco-friendly packaging, or cutting down on energy use. But next year, expect a bigger focus on mindset and business culture.

One key thing to remember: **a strong mindset is key for franchises**. It's not enough to just adopt a few green initiatives here and there; the entire company culture needs to embrace sustainability. Franchises that can embed sustainable thinking into every aspect of their business—from employee training to the way they source materials—will stand out as leaders in the industry. This mindset shift isn't just about saving the planet; it's also about long-term business survival in an ever-changing world.

Water Conservation Will be a Game-Changer

As climate change continues to disrupt global weather patterns, **water conservation** is going to be one of the most pressing issues of 2025. Industries that are heavy users of water—think agriculture, manufacturing, and food processing—will need to find ways to cut back on consumption and recycle water more efficiently.

The key here is innovation. Expect to see a rise in water-saving technologies, such as smart irrigation systems for agriculture, which can drastically reduce water waste. There's also likely to be an increase in businesses finding ways to capture and reuse water on-site, reducing the strain on local water supplies. While water conservation might seem like a small piece of the sustainability puzzle, it will play a huge role in shaping the future of industries across the board.

Closing Thoughts

As we head into 2025, it's clear that sustainability is no longer an option—it's a necessity. Whether it's the rise of biodegradable products, the push for water conservation, or the ever-expanding green energy sector, these trends are set to dominate the conversation next year. And the businesses that adapt and innovate in this space won't just survive—they'll thrive. So, buckle up and get ready for a future where eco-friendly practices aren't just part of the game—they are the game.

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Verify Identities: Know Who You're Really Talking To Online

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

Today, finding any information on the Internet is absolutely no problem. Using a browser, we learn where the nearest location is, how to make a delicious cake and where to find the right ingredients. The remote method of searching is practical and fast. It also allows us to find friends and renew old connections through social media. Lots of people sign up every day to improve their user experience, meet someone and socialize. People discuss important issues regarding different topics, hobbies and work on forums and messengers. However, there are sometimes difficulties in the identity verification of a person.

What should you do if your username and other data are classified and you want to know who your opponent or like-minded person is? The desire to recognize the user is quite natural, because various scammers and inadequate individuals register on websites and social networks along with ordinary people. They use various VPNs and proxy servers to avoid being recognized. People who fall under the influence of such fraudsters become victims and risk losing their accounts and personal savings. However, there is a remedy for such hackers as well.

So, how to recognize the person who so trustingly communicates with you on the Web and conducts an active correspondence with supposedly friendly motives?

Check the phone number and other data on the nickname of the user

There are many ways to recognize a “secret agent”. One of them is to download and install an application on your phone, which will declassify an anonymous person by certain parameters – photo, nickname or description. The program identifies people around the world for different purposes. There is sometimes a need to find a soul mate or, on the contrary, a particularly dangerous criminal. The most popular way of searching is by nickname.

It is a pseudonym, which is most convenient for us to use online. This word most accurately characterizes our principles, behavior, personality, and characteristics. Therefore, it is usually not difficult to reveal who is in front of you. This encrypted name is often used by users on many sites when they register there.

The algorithms of their own encryption are usually similar to each other:

1. A combination of first and last name in abbreviated form.
2. The first letters of the first and last name.
3. The date of birth is often combined with the name.

4. Mentioning your specialty (profession).
5. Combinations or whole names of favorite cartoon characters or movie characters.
6. Demonstration of hobbies: footballer, boxer.
7. "So no one will guess": a word backwards, a word in Latin, etc.

Don't forget! Users often use the nickname in the e-mail address. This can be very helpful in finding a person.

Possibilities of the service to search for people on an international scale

The site <https://x-ray.contact/> is an accessible service that contains many databases, everyone can use it. It is necessary to pass a simple registration. Everything happens anonymously and for free. It remains to give the software a certain task and start identifying a person by a certain feature (photo, contact, address and so on).

Features of the free service:

1. Search by photo. It is possible to search for a person by a photo of his face.
2. By phone or mail. The service allows you to find information about people solely by name, phone number, physical address or email address in seconds.
3. Facebook search. The service has many options and filters that are not available in the standard interface of the social network. For example, you can search by setting a filter by country, school, keywords, and so on.
4. Media scanning. If you need to scan all possible media (including social networks) for mentions of a name, nickname or even a specific word, you can use this tool.
5. Account search. Finally, if you need to find all the accounts that use a certain nickname on different social networks, you can use the service.

You can find the person you are communicating with in virtual reality by several parameters: name, nickname, photo, e-mail address, contact details, description, hobbies and interests. Use effective tools for this purpose and get transparency of virtual contacts at any stage of your communication.

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7 Essential Tips for Supporting a Disabled Child

Our Friends · Wednesday, October 2nd, 2024

Raising a disabled child comes with unique challenges and rewards. While every child is different, there are some key things you can do to support your disabled child's development, create an

inclusive home environment, and access the help and resources you all need to thrive. This article provides seven essential tips for UK parents and carers of disabled children.

1. Getting to Know Their Disability

One of the first steps in supporting your disabled child is understanding their specific condition. Contacting medical professionals involved in their care as well as social workers and support groups can provide invaluable information. These professionals have experience supporting children with similar needs and can offer guidance on the best therapies, accommodations, and care strategies. Be open about the challenges you face and ask lots of questions. The more you know about your child's disability and options for support, the better equipped you'll be to advocate for and assist your child.

2. Focus on Their Abilities

See your child as a whole person – not just their disability. Identify and cultivate their talents, interests, and strengths to build their confidence and skills. Applaud every achievement.

3. Create an Accessible Home Environment

Make simple home modifications like installing ramps, grip bars, and lever-style door handles. Reduce clutter and rearrange furniture to clear paths for wheelchairs or walkers. Invest in supportive chairs, weighted blankets, and fidget toys. Create quiet spaces for sensory breaks.

4. Find an Inclusive School

Research schools with experience in special education and support services. Meet with staff to discuss needed accommodations and therapies. **Transitioning to nursery or primary school** is a big step – work closely with educators.

5. Connect with Others

Join local support groups, forums, and social clubs for families of disabled children. Share advice, resources, and experiences. Connecting with other parents and foster carers facing similar challenges can provide great support. One of the [types of foster care](#) is disability fostering, where foster carers are trained to care for disabled children. Connecting with carers in similar situations helps you to know you're not alone on this journey. Look for both in-person and online communities tailored to your child's needs.

6. Explore Assistive Technologies

From hearing aids to screen readers to mobility devices, technology can help disabled children develop and communicate. Seek occupational therapist recommendations.

7. Celebrate Every Milestone

Let your child know you are proud of them. Display their art, praise their efforts, and relish time together. Small steps still bring joy – focus on progress rather than perfection. Each new skill mastered, goal accomplished, and moment shared is worthy of celebration.

Keep a journal [tracking milestones](#) and achievements, looking back at how far your child has

come. Note the date when they first rolled over, spoke a word, or fed themselves. Capture these memories and moments. Look through the journal together as a reminder of their hard work and perseverance in the face of challenges.

Raising a disabled child has rewards and challenges. By educating yourself about their disability, making accommodations, connecting with support systems, advocating for their needs, and celebrating their progress, you can make a tremendous difference in their development and quality of life. With patience, care, and support, disabled children can thrive and live full, meaningful lives.

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Musical Satires: *Forbidden B'way*; John McCain

David Sheward · Monday, September 30th, 2024

Musical theater conventions past, present and future come in for a riotous ribbing in the latest edition of Gerard Alessandrini's perennial parody revue *Forbidden Broadway*. This one's subtitled *Merrily We Stole a Song* and it ties in with the recent revival of *Merrily We Roll Along* which originally opened the same year as the first *Forbidden* show, 1982. This latest edition was initially announced to open on Broadway (a first for the series) at the Hayes Theatre. But those plans fell through and this compact, delightfully intimate show is snugly at home at Theater 555, way Off-Broadway, practically on the West Side Highway. Alessandrini's satiric lyrics and smooth direction are as sharp as ever, offering a comically distorted snapshot of the current Broadway scene as well as a tribute to its past.

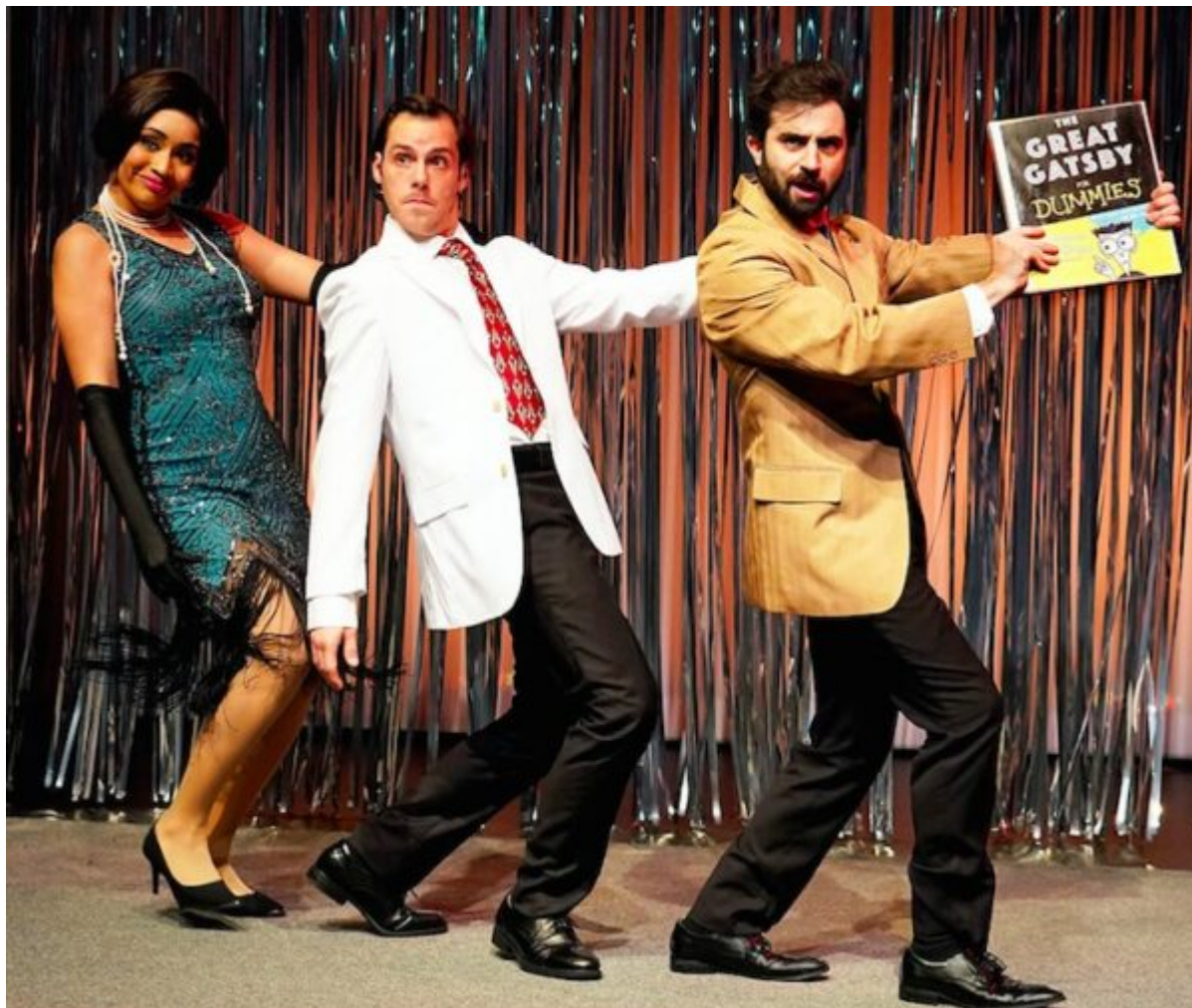


Nicole Vanessa Ortiz, Danny Hayward, Jenny Lee Stern, and Chris Collins-Pisano in *Forbidden Broadway: Merrily We Stole a Song*.

Credit: Carol Rosegg

The program opens with a spot-on jab at tardy theatergoers set to a familiar tune. Instead “Sit Down You’re Rocking the Boat” from *Guys and Dolls*, an angry usher warbles “Sit Down You’re Blocking the Aisle.” Right away, Alessandrini’s piercing wit is front and center—he miraculously rhymes “shih tzu” with “jiu jitsu”—and we are off to the races.

There are lampoons of almost every show now or recently running on the Main Stem and even a few in the near future. The new Sondheim revue from London, *Old Friends*, offers an opportunity to poke fun at its star Bernadette Peters, magnificently mimicked by Jenny Lee Sterns, a *FB* veteran. She also displays impressive impressionist abilities with her hilarious turn as Patti LuPone, alternating between over-articulating and blurring her lyrics, a smug Hillary Clinton revealing in her role as a Broadway producer, and Shaina Taub, author and star of *Suffs*.



Nicole Vanessa Ortiz, Danny Hayward and Chris Collins-Pisano in *Forbidden Broadway: Merrily We Stole a Song*.

Credit: Carol Rosegg

Equally adept at shifting personae is Danny Hayward who transforms to all the Emcees in *Cabaret*—Joel Grey, Alan Cumming and Eddie Redmayne—in a wicked takedown of the current overblown revival. He also does a mean Jeremy Jourdan in a nasty take-off of *The Great Gatsby* which incorporates a tap number from *Singin' in the Rain*. Nicole Vanessa Ortiz displays impressive pipes and range as she demolishes Audra McDonald's upcoming Mama Rose in *Gypsy*, Cynthia Erivo in the *Wicked* movie, and the leads in *Hell's Kitchen* and *& Juliet*. Chris Collins-Pisano has a jolly time impersonating everyone from Cole Escola in *Oh, Mary!* to Ben Platt in his Palace Theater concert to the silly, soulful lead in *The Outsiders*, which Alessandrini cleverly morphs into “Gee, Officer Krupke” from *West Side Story*.

My only caveat is the framing device of Marty McFly and Doc Emmett Brown from *Back to the Future* visiting Broadway's past and future in their time-tripping DeLorean gets a bit repetitive. The reliable and versatile Fred Barton returns to tickle the ivories and act as music director in this latest fun frolicking *Forbidden Broadway*.



The company of *Ghost of John McCain*.

Credit: Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade

While *Forbidden Broadway* has been merrily chugging along for over 40 years, the musical satire genre has not had many other successful offerings, particularly of the political variety. Perhaps it's because our current political landscape is so ridiculous (the eating of cats and dogs is now a big issue) that parody would seem redundant. The 1960s and '70s were rife with political comedies like Barbara Garson's *MacBird*, Gore Vidal's *An Evening with Richard Nixon* and Peter Ustinov's *Who's Who in Hell*. Selina Fellinger's 2022 totally fictional *POTUS* was a rare recent exception. The last revue tackling real-life national issues I can recall was written by Alessandrini in 2001 when he "politically corrected" and adapted Irving Berlin's 1962 musical *Mr. President* to reflect the Bush-Gore election. The results were mixed. The same can be said for a new attempt at current-event comedy: *Ghost of John McCain* at SoHo Playhouse.

The basic idea by Grant Woods and Jason Rose, who receive a "Conceived by" credit, is intriguing. (Scott Elmegreen wrote the book and Drew Fornarola the songs.) After his death in 2018, John McCain (Jason Tam doing his best in a relatively straight role surrounded by caricatures) finds himself inside Donald Trump's brain. The Orange One evidently can't get the Arizona Senator and former Presidential candidate out of his mind. After encounters with Hillary Clinton, Lindsay Graham, Roy Cohn, a stand-in for Trump voters named Karen, and myriad others, McCain resolves to convince Trump to give up his authoritarian, scatter-shot ways and become a truly responsible conservative leader. Good luck with that!



The company of *Ghost of John McCain*.

Credit: Evan Zimmerman for MurphyMade.

The trouble is Elmegreen's book and Fornarola's songs push too hard and come too fast. One outlandish idea follows another in such rapid succession (Catie Davis is the speed-demon director), we scarcely have time to get the joke, let alone laugh at it. The gags and concepts are too often scattered and confusing. For example, Trump is represented by both his teenage image of himself (the energetic Lukas Kolbe Mannikus who is an able singer and dancer) and Trump's actual brain (Aaron Michael Ray, reasonably funny).

There are some insightful moments amid the chaos. Zoya Love does a marvelous job of delineating the alienated Trump voter Karen in Fornarola's surprisingly moving song, "Invisible" in which the motivations behind the MAGA movement are movingly explained. Lindsay Nicole Chambers provides several incisive portraits including a justifiably enraged Hillary Clinton (her song "I Told You So" is a highlight), Trump's bubbled-headed daughter-wife (a combination of Ivanka and Melania), and a Sexy Lady Fox News Anchor. When the latter is asked her name, she replies "It doesn't matter." Ben Fankhauser completes the cast with an over-the-top Lindsay Graham in black-mesh and as Joe Biden as a doddering janitor.

Mieka Van Der Ploeg does have fun with the costumes including garments representing the COVID-19 virus, an actual brain for Trump and, for some reason, a giant dancing cheeseburger. Set designer Lawrence E. Moten III efficiently uses the small Soho Playhouse space to create the illusion of a second-rate hotel lobby.

The point of *Ghost of John McCain* is that Trump's mind is a jumbled mess, but unfortunately, so is the show, but there are some laughs to be had. Ironically and sadly, our current election season is much more absurd than the events depicted onstage.

***Forbidden Broadway: Merrily We Stole a Song*: Sept. 19—Jan. 5, 2025. Theater 555, 555 W. 42nd St., NYC. Running time: 90 mins. with no intermission. Theater 555.**

Ghost of John McCain: Sept. 24—Nov. 10. Soho Playhouse, 15 Vandam St., NYC. Running time: 90 mins. with no intermission. ovationtix.com.

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Reasons Paving and Patios are Important in Garden Design

Our Friends · Monday, September 30th, 2024

Creating a beautiful, functional outdoor space is a priority for almost every homeowner. Gardens aren't just for plants; they are extensions of the home where families can relax, entertain, and enjoy nature. Paving and patios play a crucial role in making garden spaces both practical and aesthetically pleasing. Today, we'll explore why paving and patios are essential aspects of any well-designed garden as outlined by [Driveway Paving & Patios Kildare](#).

Creating Usable Space

One of the most significant benefits of including paved areas and patios in your garden design is the creation of usable space. Gardens are often designed for more than just aesthetics. They serve as spaces for socializing, dining, and relaxation. Patios provide a flat, durable surface for outdoor furniture, allowing for comfortable seating and dining areas. Without a patio or paving, outdoor furniture can be unstable on grass or uneven ground, making it less practical for regular use.

Patios and paved areas also make it easier to define different sections of the garden. You can create distinct areas for different activities, such as a dining zone, a play area for children, or a spot for relaxing with a book. This organization enhances the overall usability of the garden and makes it easier to enjoy year-round.

Year-Round Usability

Paving and patios also help make your garden usable throughout the year. While grassy areas may become muddy and unusable during wet weather, paved areas provide a clean, stable surface. This is especially important if you live in a region with frequent rain or snow. Even in winter, a well-designed patio can serve as an inviting outdoor space with the addition of a fire pit.

Enhancing Aesthetic Appeal

In addition to their practical benefits, paving and [patios greatly enhance](#) the aesthetic appeal of a garden. They act as visual anchors in the overall design, providing a structured surface around which other garden features can be arranged. Whether your garden has a modern, rustic, or traditional style, the right paving materials can elevate the design.

Paving as a Focal Point

A patio can serve as a focal point in the garden, drawing the eye to the heart of the outdoor space. By choosing materials that match or complement the architectural style of the house, you can

create a cohesive look that blends indoor and outdoor areas seamlessly. Natural stone, brick, and concrete are just a few of the options available, each offering a different texture and feel. This versatility makes it easy to customize the paving to suit your personal taste and the overall garden theme.

Seamless Indoor-Outdoor Transition

In modern home design, the boundary between indoor and outdoor spaces is often blurred. Paving and patios help create a seamless transition between the home and the garden. By extending the same flooring or materials from the interior to the exterior, you can create a flow that makes the garden feel like an extension of the living space. This is especially effective with large sliding or bi-fold doors that open directly onto a patio.

Connection with Nature

While maintaining comfort, patios and paved areas also bring homeowners closer to nature. The ability to enjoy a morning coffee or evening dinner outside on a patio allows you to experience the beauty of your garden without sacrificing convenience. This connection to nature is a key benefit, providing mental and emotional well-being by encouraging time outdoors.

Low Maintenance and Durability

Another major advantage of paving and patios is that they are low maintenance and highly durable. Unlike grass, which requires regular mowing, watering, and reseeding, paved areas need only occasional cleaning to maintain their appearance. They are resistant to pests, weeds, and weather-related damage, making them an ideal long-term solution for garden design.

Sustainability Considerations

Many paving materials are eco-friendly, offering sustainable options for garden design. Permeable pavers, for instance, allow rainwater to filter through the ground, reducing runoff and promoting groundwater replenishment. Other eco-conscious choices include using recycled materials or choosing natural stone that blends harmoniously with the environment. This ensures that your patio or paved area not only looks good but also supports sustainable landscaping practices.

Eco-Friendly Garden Designs

Permeable pavers and other sustainable paving options allow for better water management, which can benefit the surrounding garden. These designs help reduce water runoff, encouraging natural absorption and promoting healthier plant growth. By thoughtfully integrating paving with green elements, you can create a garden that is both functional and environmentally responsible.

Boosting Property Value

Investing in paving and patios can significantly boost the value of your property. A well-designed garden with functional and aesthetically pleasing paved areas will attract potential buyers, especially those who prioritize outdoor living spaces. In fact, outdoor spaces are often seen as an extension of the home's livable area, and having a beautiful patio can set your property apart from others on the market.

Enhancing Curb Appeal

A paved front yard or patio can enhance the overall curb appeal of your home. First impressions matter, and a tidy, well-maintained garden with carefully chosen paving materials can elevate the look of your property. Additionally, patios make outdoor spaces more functional and inviting, increasing the desirability of the property for potential buyers.

Paving and patios are essential features of any well-designed garden. They provide practical, usable spaces for entertaining and relaxing while enhancing the aesthetic appeal of the outdoor area. With minimal maintenance and long-term durability, paved areas offer a sustainable and valuable addition to any home. By investing in high-quality paving and patio design, you can create a garden that not only looks beautiful but also adds to the overall value of your property. Whether you are looking to enjoy your garden year-round or increase your home's market appeal, paving and patios are a smart choice for modern garden design.

Ready to make the most of your garden? A beautiful patio or paved area can transform your outdoor space into the perfect spot for relaxing and entertaining. Get in touch today to learn how we can help bring your garden ideas to life and create a space you'll love year-round!

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How to Fix the Most Common Problems In Your Vape Device

Our Friends · Monday, September 30th, 2024

Vaping is a common alternative to smoking; however, vape devices may develop problems just like any other electronic gadget. Whether you're a new vape user or experienced, knowledge of how to handle these problems will ensure a smoother experience. Here's how you could effectively troubleshoot some common vape device problems.

Vape Device Not Firing

One of the most common complaints among vapers deals with Hit devices that are not firing. For this, there could be a number of reasons, but the most simple will relate to issues with the battery. First, ensure your device has charge. Most vape mods or pens will blink or display a battery icon when the charge is low. Plug your vape into a charger and wait to see if the issue is resolved. But if it does not turn on with charging, then the problem could be related to the battery connection. The dirt, e-liquid, or dust blocks the connection between the battery and tank or pod. Often, the areas should just be cleaned with a dry cloth or cotton swab.

If you're using a removable battery mod like **Level X vape**, ensure that the batteries are fitted in

the correct direction. Check the fire button, too-some mods' buttons can easily be accidentally locked with a few clicks. Consult your device's user manual for how to unlock it.

Vape Tastes Burnt

One of the more disagreeable experiences with vaping often pertains to getting a burnt taste, which can be achieved a lot through the improper use of the coil. A very common mistake that is being made while vaping is that people usually vape with a coil that hasn't been properly primed. Before using a new coil, it is important to soak the wicking material of the e-liquid for a few minutes. This way, the wick will be saturated, and it will prevent burning out the coil too fast.

No Vapor Production

When you hit the fire button, and nothing happens, that typically indicates a problem with either the coil itself or how it's seated in the tank and battery. First, that's going to be the correct fit of a coil. Poor connections are another frequent culprit for not being able to fire your device. Make sure that the coil is screwed down snugly into the tank and the tank is attached well to the battery. For pod systems, ensure that the pod is properly snapped into its place.

E-Liquid Spitting Back

Spit-back occurs when hot droplets of e-liquid shoot into your mouth while you vape. This might be surprising and a little uncomfortable. The first reason this happens is overfilling the tank. Be sure you fill up your tank to the appropriate level, leaving a space for air. Overfilling does force liquid through a coil too fast, making it spit. The other cause is when too low wattage is applied. When wattage applied is too low for the coil, the liquid does not vaporize properly and will bubble in the coil, resulting in spit-back. Move the wattage to a higher setting but within the recommended rating of the coil.

E-Liquid Leaking

Leaking e-liquids are a common problem that makes this activity of vaping less enjoyable and a bit messy. First, check whether all the components are tightly screwed. Many cases of leakage result from poor screwing of parts, like the tank or coil, allowing liquids to leak out. Check the O-rings-small rubber seals-around the tank. They often cause leaks if they are worn or broken. Replacement usually gets rid of the problem in no time.

Conclusion

While vape device issues can be a real pain, most of the problems are relatively easy to overcome, provided one has the right knowledge and takes proper care. Properly priming the coils, adjusting the airflow, or simply giving your device a regular cleaning-all can keep your vape working longer and enhance your whole experience in vaping. Regular maintenance and component knowledge will keep things running smoothly, enabling you to enjoy your vape hassle-free.

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Bonus Features in San Quentin xWays Slot: How to Activate and Use Them

Our Friends · Monday, September 30th, 2024

Online slots offer much more than spinning reels as they provide an exciting world where a single spin can turn into enormous wins, especially with the help of some extras. This is where the San Quentin xWays slot comes in as a perfect illustration. Nevertheless, what is it about these added games that are so captivating? And what is the best way to take full advantage of them and improve your chances of winning? Join us as we journey through San Quentin xWays and investigate what lies under the surface of its bonuses.

Understanding the Core of San Quentin xWays

At first glance, the San Quentin xWays slot, available at <https://tower.bet/game/san-quentin-xways>, might seem like just another themed slot game, but it's so much more. This prison-themed slot from NoLimit City is set in a gritty environment, where each spin feels like a step deeper into the complex world of San Quentin prison. With characters like Beefy Dick and Crazy Joe, you're not just playing; you're experiencing a story.

What sets San Quentin xWays apart are its bonus features. Every feature, from the Split Wilds to the Lockdown Free Spins, is designed to enhance your gameplay and boost your winnings. Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned player, the game offers flexible betting options that cater to every kind of gambler.

Unlocking the Power of Split Wilds

One exceptional attribute of San Quentin xWays is the Split Wild. In contrast to regular wilds, Split Wilds multiply the symbols above and below them on the reels by two, significantly increasing the potential for winning combinations. As a result, one spin becomes a great opportunity to win large amounts. The players can never know when they will come across the split wild symbol, which adds some fun while at the same time creating very engaging moments that could lead to incredibly high prizes.

Mastering the Lockdown Free Spins

San Quentin xWays is known for providing free spins, which most players highly appreciate regarding slot bonuses. It is possible to experience a fantastic adventure when entering Lockdown Free Spins, activated by three or more Guard Tower scatter symbols. The game becomes even more enjoyable with Enhancer Cells on every reel that unveils high-paying icons or additional wilds and Razor Splits, which multiply the symbols on the reel by 2. The total number of free spins and added wilds is predetermined before the gambling session, thus increasing adrenaline.

Taking Advantage of the Jumping Wilds

The San Quentin xWays slot has a unique element called Jumping Wilds. Throughout Lockdown

Free Spins, these symbols will change positions every time you spin. As such, new combinations will be formed during each spin, ensuring players enjoy an ever-dynamic and unpredictable gaming experience. The additional aspect of the unpredictable landing spots for the jumping wilds adds excitement to the gameplay such that one may think about hitting a grand prize after every spin.

Chasing the Big Wins with Razor Splits and xWays Symbols

Featuring Razor Splits and xWays symbols, the San Quentin xWays slot game is stunning. If a reel contains Razor Splits, it will double the symbols there; on the other hand, an expanding X-ways symbol will uncover a stack of four high-paying icons. These features can assist you in getting very high winnings that occur in both normal levels and additional spins. Combined with extra bonuses, they create an exciting and high-risk gaming experience in which significant prizes are just one spin away.

Is It Worth the Gamble?

Playing San Quentin xWays slot translates into much more than a game- there are various ways to make significant amounts of money. Although they may appear as additional features, the Split Wilds, Lockdown Free Spins, Jumping Wilds, Razor Splits, and xWays symbols play an essential role in the game and can significantly increase your earnings.

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Luck or Skill? Unpacking the Duck Dice Game

Our Friends · Monday, September 30th, 2024

Duck Dice is one of the most unpredictable and engaging gambling games. It is a game where you bet on the outcome of a roll but with a special twist that makes it more enjoyable. Nevertheless, does one have to rely on luck while playing Duck Dice or is there some skill involved too?

What is Duck Dice?

Duck Dice is a game where players roll dice and aim to achieve specific combinations or outcomes to score points. The **duck dice game** is played with 4 eggs, and each egg has a number from 1 to 9 to create a new number. The goal is to guess if the resulting number is going to be higher or lower than the number on the screen.

The Role of Luck

At its core, Duck Dice is inherently a game of chance. The random nature of dice rolls means that no matter how skilled a player is, the outcome is influenced by luck. For instance:

- **Dice (Eggs) Outcomes:** Each roll produces random results. You can't control whether you roll a high or low number, and that randomness is a fundamental aspect of the game.
- **Winning Combinations:** Certain outcomes or combinations may be rarer than others, adding an element of unpredictability to the game.

In Duck Dice, it is impossible to tell what will happen next when you roll because every player has an equal chance of winning or losing. A player's game can be heavily influenced by some rounds where they play well and others where they play poorly due to this element of chance inherent in the game.

The Influence of Skill

Duck Dice relies heavily on luck, but it also requires some level of skill and strategy. Players can take the following measures to capitalize on their skills:

- **Understanding the Odds:** Skilled players will have a good grasp of the probabilities associated with different number combinations. Knowing which combinations are more likely can help players make informed decisions about their moves.
- **Adaptation:** The strategy of a talented player can change depending on how the game is going and what happened during the last throws. By being able to do this, they increase the possibility of getting positive results, despite the fact that the dice rolls are completely random.

Balancing Luck and Skill

Duck Dice, like many games involving dice, blends luck with skill. The key to enjoying and excelling at Duck Dice is to recognize the role of each element:

- **Embrace the Luck:** It is important to recognize that there are results which you cannot influence and that chance will forever be included in any gambling activity. By taking this view, you will find the game enjoyable and less frustrating.
- **Develop Your Skills:** Concentrate on improving your tactical thought processes as well as your decision making. If you know how the game works and act wisely, you will be able to increase your average result and reduce the negative effects of bad luck.

Summary

Duck Dice is a delightful game that combines luck and skill. Although some elements of the game are determined by chance (such as the numbers rolled), players have the ability to affect their odds of winning through strategic gameplay. If you understand this balance, it will make the game more interesting for you. Also, it will enable you to face every roll cheerfully and think wisely.

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Why I Didn't Procrastinate Reading *The Procrastination Playbook* by Risa Williams

Trevor Stockwell · Friday, September 27th, 2024

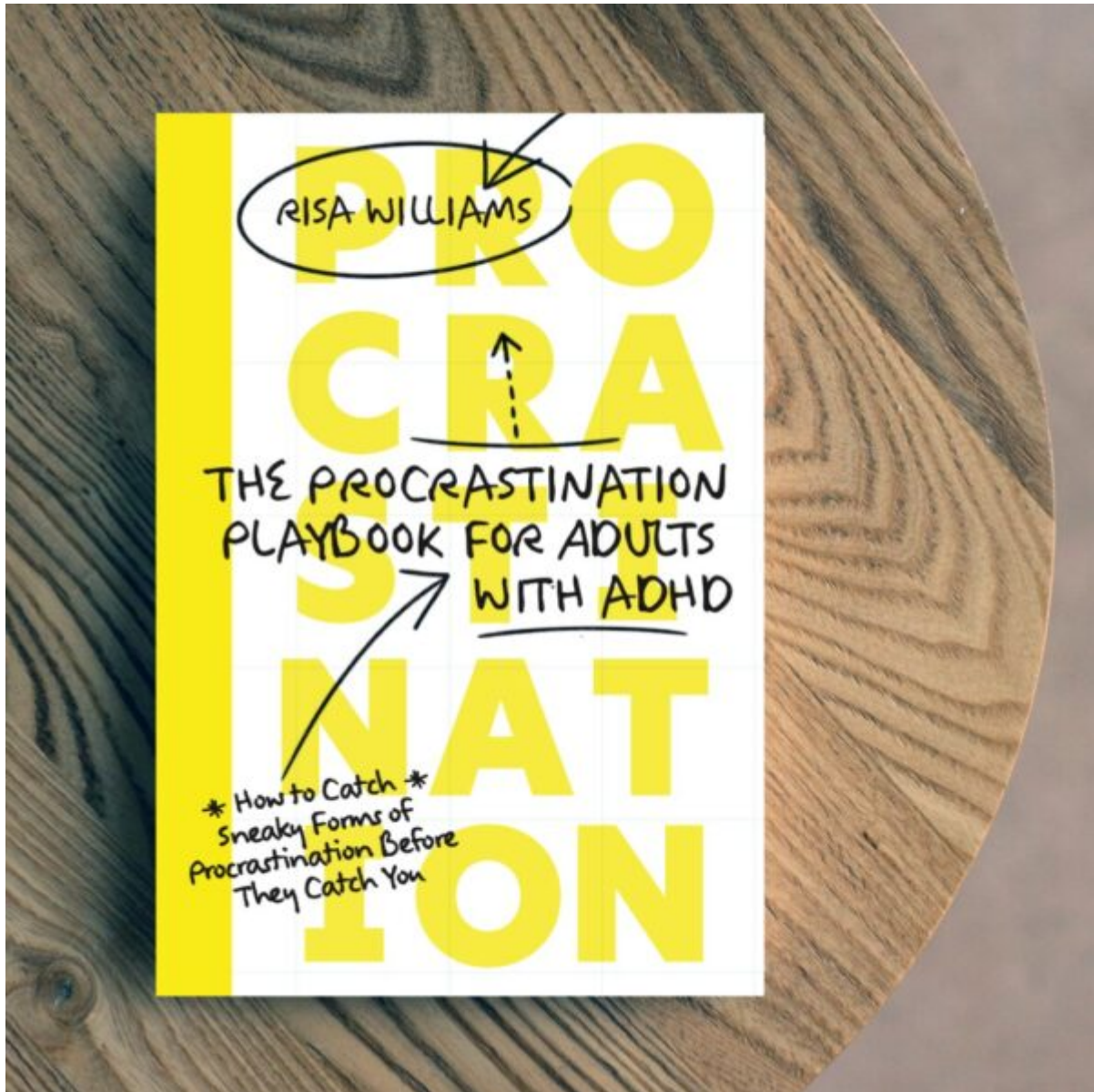
It can be so easy to procrastinate doing everyday things and self-sabotage ourselves from making progress on things we want to do.

Just last week, I had to catch and conquer my own temptation towards procrastination, even though I work as a leadership coach who actively helps people address procrastination as part of what I do. I caught myself wanting to reschedule doing research on a topic that was the next-step of a project while working with my own coach. I had to ask myself, "Am I procrastinating this right now by trying to reschedule it?"

Conquering procrastination is not a one-time event, so, if we *really want* to experience life at its fullest, then we need to embrace practical, simple tools and strategies to thwart procrastination when it appears in our lives. Remember, once this moment has passed, it is gone, never to return again. Time is always fleeting, and sometimes we find ourselves stuck, watching it pass us by.

This is why I didn't procrastinate reading Risa Williams' new book, *The Procrastination Playbook: How to Catch Sneaky Forms of Procrastination Before They Catch You* ([Jessica Kingsley Books](#)). As a keen reader myself of ALL three of Risa's other books, *The Ultimate Toolkit Book Series*, and having enjoyed the practical tools she provides within these, I was excited about the opportunity to learn about the various ways that procrastination sneaks up on us in everyday life.

Risa Williams is a psychotherapist, an award-winning book author, and an expert in getting things done. I asked her a few questions about procrastination and how it can make us feel stuck in our tracks while working on our goals.



What are the most obvious forms of procrastination that you hear people talking about?

First of all, just to normalize this, everyone procrastinates. We procrastinate little types of things, we procrastinate bigger things, but procrastination is something we all do in different ways. So, I wrote this book so that we can start to peel back the layers of shame people tend to feel about procrastination, and look at it through a lighter, and, hopefully, more practical perspective. It's a normal thing that happens to us from time to time. The most common types of procrastination that I tend to hear about from people are problems getting started with projects, trouble prioritizing or organizing the steps towards completing goals, and avoiding doing tasks that don't seem like any fun for them to do. This last one is probably the most obvious type of procrastination because you know when you're doing it, and you can easily admit you're procrastinating, and everyone around you can tell you are procrastinating, too. You might even say to people, "Yep! I'm avoiding doing this because I really don't want to do it!" That's why it's the easiest form to catch yourself doing...because it's visible!

What are some of the "sneaky" forms of procrastination that we might not know we're doing?

In the book, I talk about subtler types of procrastination that tend to sneak up on us. These catch us

off-guard because we don't always notice the signs that we're doing them until we're way deep in it. For example, "waiting for motivation" is a sneaky type of procrastination. You have a plan to start the project in your head, but you get stuck waiting for the "right time" to start it. Only, this sometimes stretches on way longer than you think. Sometimes, even for years! And the problem is, we don't really admit to ourselves that we're stuck in procrastination during this time but we're losing our sense of passing time related to the project. We go into a kind of chronic "time blindness" with the whole thing where time is passing more slowly inside our heads than it is on the outside in real life.

Other sneaky types of procrastination can be things like getting busy working on too many unrelated tasks, while never moving yourself forward with the one task that you need to do. In fact, with many of the people I work with, they often become "overly" busy when they're procrastinating. This can be one of the "procrastination warning signs" you may notice in yourself, which I talk about in the book. We all have little cues that we're starting to procrastinate, they're different for each person, and in the book, I ask people to start to become more "aware" of these little signs, so we can call them out as they're starting to happen. Calling procrastination out in the early stages helps you become aware of what you're doing. And this awareness really changes what we choose to do next.

In the *Playbook*, you link the relation between stress, procrastination and levels of motivation. How does this work?

When we're at a high level of stress, our executive functioning skills can become impaired. And our executive functions include things like our ability to make decisions, organize tasks, initiate tasks, remember things, and regulate our emotions. So, you can see how when we're feeling stressed, we then have trouble figuring anything out, and we can easily find ourselves stuck in procrastination. Our brains can feel "jammed up" in this way when the stress is running high.

That's why one of the key factors I talk about in the book is learning how to manage everyday stress. When we can bring down our stress more frequently throughout the day, we can tap into those executive functioning skills again. We can suddenly turn on the parts of our brain that help us start the first step of a task, make decisions, and organize our time again.

Regulating your stress each day is so important to being able to get things done. There are many ways to do this; you have to figure out what works for your own unique body and brain. Some people learn to take "time buffer breaks" when the stress is high, other people do meditation or breathwork, a lot of people find light exercise or walking is helpful in reducing stress. Even if all you can think of to do is check in with how your body is feeling more consistently, this can help you learn to regulate your stress, too.



Risa Williams, author of *The Procrastination Playbook*

After reading your book, I recognised a subtle form of “task avoidance procrastination” that frequently attempts to take root in my life. And are there any ways I can tackle this when it starts to happen?

Usually, when we’re avoiding a task repeatedly, it’s not the whole task that is making us feel stuck. It’s one particularly un-fun part of the task that’s making us feel stuck. There is a stressful “piece” of the task that is making us not want to do the entire task.

So, what you could do is to write out the list of steps to complete task on paper and rate each step as “low, mid or high” intensity for you to do (see: *The Task Intensity Meter* in Risa’s *Ultimate Time Management Toolkit*). When we can find that high-stress part of the task, and identify it, and acknowledge it, we can start to move ourselves forward.

Then, we can ask ourselves, is there an easier step I can start with just to get myself moving a little? What is the easiest step I can do now that won’t feel so hard to complete? Because, once you start moving by taking one tiny little step, your motivation will also start to kick in. Then, you can eventually tackle the hardest part of the task that you’re avoiding.

But first, you have to break down the task, label it, acknowledge the hard part, and then pick an easy first step forward. I have a lot of worksheets in the book that can help you do this when you're feeling stuck. I wrote the book in a way so that it would be easy to navigate when you're feeling "jammed up" and "overwhelmed." Because I know what it feels like when you're trying to read a self-help book and you're completely overwhelmed. You need simple, easy tools, that you can try without having to work too hard to do them. And hopefully, that's what I have provided in this book.

What would you say to those who feel trapped by procrastination, who know that it is unhelpful but struggle to really live free from it?

A lot of the time, it's not just procrastination that's making us feel stuck, it can also be shame, guilt, and perfectionism lurking underneath the surface, too. So, remember to be kind to yourself, practice being really gentle with yourself as you work your way through these intense emotions. Soothe yourself, encourage yourself, show compassion for yourself. Even just acknowledging that a task in front of you is feeling hard for you to do is a way to show kindness towards yourself. Ease into those hard parts of the task slowly, by telling yourself kind words of encouragement.

And know that small steps really do add up! You just have to find the first tiny one to take. The first step out of procrastination is often the hardest part, once you take it, you will often find your strength again to keep moving forward. I really hope the book helps you figure out what that first easy step forward is for you.

*

So, before you scroll on or jump to something else, what are you going to do with this the next time procrastination surfaces? What will your next small step forward be?

Most importantly, don't procrastinate reading *The Procrastination Playbook*, if you want a little help out of whichever form of procrastination you find yourself in next.

Check out Risa Williams' new book, *The Procrastination Playbook for Adults with ADHD: How to Catch Sneaky Forms of Procrastination Before They Catch You* on [Amazon](#), Barnes & Noble or at [risawilliams.com](https://www.risawilliams.com).

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