

Measuring your effort



It's important that you train at the right effort level and intensity to ensure you're training to reach your full potential. Most of us think that training "harder is better" so we end up training too hard, which can result in feeling tired, illness or injury. Understanding what each session is trying to achieve and how it should feel is the way to train smart, so here's a guide to effort levels that you'll find mentioned in your training plan and a note of how they should feel as a 'talk test'.

Type of Session	Perceived effort level (1-10)*	Heart rate	How it should feel - the 'talk test'
Recovery	6-6.5	65-70%	You can speak in complete sentences, totally conversational, you're relaxed and enjoying it the session.
Easy	6.5-7	65-70%	You're in control and very much at a conversational level but you'll feel slightly flushed with a gradual build up of muscular fatigue.
Steady	7-8	70-80%	You can speak in short sentences but have a slight pause on your breath. This can often be 'no man's land' in training terms if this is all you do.
Threshold	8-8.5	80-85%	You could speak 4-5 words if somebody asked you a question. Your breathing is more laboured and you know you're working, we call this 'controlled discomfort'.
Hard	9-9.5	90-92%	90-92%

^{*}Perceived effort = where 1 is easy and represents minimum effort and 10 is hard and represents maximum effort



Hard



Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	Rest	35 mins cross training - 10 mins easy effort, 15 mins steady effort, 10 mins easy effort (can be indoor bike or eliptical trainer) or 35 mins easy effort run. 15 mins strength and conditioning	50 mins easy effort walk	40 mins cross training (eliptical trainer) - 10 mins easy effort, 20 mins steady effort, 10 mins easy effort or 40 mins easy effort run. 15 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	45 mins easy effort cross training (can be indoor bike or swimming)	2 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
		60	50 %	55		45	2 hr
2	Rest	35 mins cross training - 10 mins easy effort, 15 mins steady effort, 10 mins easy effort (can be indoor bike or eliptical trainer) or 35 mins easy effort run. 15 mins strength and conditioning	60 mins easy effort walk	40 mins cross training (eliptical trainer) - 10 mins easy effort, 20 mins steady effort, 10 mins easy effort or 40 mins easy effort run. 15 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	45 mins easy effort cross training (can be indoor bike or swimming)	2 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
		50		55		45	2.5 hr
3	Rest	30 mins easy effort cross training or run, 30 mins strength and conditioning	40 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 40 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 6 x 2 mins at threshold effort off 60 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	30 - 45 mins easy effort walk, 15 - 30 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	3 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	1 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
			40	1.25hr		3 hr	1hr 🐒
4	Rest	30 mins easy effort cross training or run, 30 mins strength and conditioning	40 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 40 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 5 x 3 mins at threshold effort off 60 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	30 - 45 mins easy effort walk, 15 - 30 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	3 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	1 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
		60 8	40	1.25hr		3.5 hr	1.5 hr



Hard



Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
5	Rest	30 mins easy effort cross training or run, 30 mins strength and conditioning	40 - 45 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 40 - 45 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 6 x 3 mins at threshold effort off 60 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	30 - 45 mins easy effort walk, 15 - 30 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	4 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	1 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
		6 8	45	1.25hr %		4 hr	1.5 hr
6	Rest	40 mins easy effort walk, 15 mins strength and conditioning	40 - 45 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 40 - 45 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 5 x 4 mins at threshold effort off 75 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	30 mins easy effort cross training or run, 30 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	4 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	2 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
		55 %	45	60 8		4.5 hr	2 hr
7	Rest	45 mins easy effort walk, 15 mins strength and conditioning	40 - 45 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 40 - 45 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 5 x 4 mins at threshold effort off 60 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	30 mins easy effort cross training or run, 30 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	5 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	2 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
			45	60 8		5 hr	2 hr
8	Rest	45 mins easy effort walk, 15 mins strength and conditioning	45 - 50 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 45 - 50 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 6 x 4 mins at threshold effort off 90 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	30 mins easy effort cross training or run, 30 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	5 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	2 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
		60 %	50	60 8		5.5 hr	2.5 hr





Easy	
Moderate	(&)
Hard	M

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
9	Rest - easier week this week to allow some training adaptation and recovery from the previous weeks of training	30 mins easy effort cross training or run	45 - 50 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 45 - 50 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 6 x 4 mins at threshold effort off 90 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	45 - 60 mins easy effort walk	Rest	6 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	Rest
		30	50	60 %		6 hr	
10	45 - 60 mins strength and conditioning (can be a fitness class)	Rest	50 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 50 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 5 x 5 mins at threshold effort off 90 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	45 mins easy effort walk, 15 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	7 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	2 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
	(I)		50	60 6		7hr 🏂	2.5 hr
11	Rest	45 - 60 mins strength and conditioning (can be a fitness class)	50 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 50 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 5 x 5 mins at threshold effort off 90 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	45 mins easy effort walk, 15 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	8 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	2 hr 30 mins steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
		60 (1-1)	50	60 6		8 hr 💃	2.5 hr
12	Rest - easier week this week to allow some training adaptation and recovery from the previous weeks of training	45 - 60 mins strength and conditioning (can be a fitness class)	50 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 50 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 5 x 5 mins at threshold effort off 60 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	45 mins easy effort walk, 15 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	9 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	Rest
		60 (1)-(1)-	50	60 6		9 hr 💃	



Hard



Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
13	Rest	45 - 60 mins strength and conditioning (can be a fitness class)	60 mins easy effort walk	30 mins easy effort cross training or run, 30 mins strength and conditioning	Rest	10 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	2 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
		(d-l)-		60 8		10 hr 1	2 hr
14	Rest	45 - 60 mins strength and conditioning (can be a fitness class)	60 mins easy effort walk	50 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 50 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 5 x 5 mins at threshold effort off 60 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	Rest	2 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please	Rest
				50		2 hr	
15	45 - 60 mins strength and conditioning (can be a fitness class)	Rest	45 mins cross training (can be indoor bike or elipitcal trainer) or 45 mins run - 10 mins easy effort, 4 x 5 mins at threshold effort off 60 seconds easy effort recovery between intervals, 10 mins easy effort	30 mins easy effort cross training or run	45 mins easy effort walk	Rest	1 hr steady effort walk over off road undulating terrain if possible please
	(i) (I)		45	30	45		60 %
16	Rest	30 mins easy effort cross training, walk or run	Rest	20 mins easy effort cross training, walk or run	Rest, plan, prepare and look forward to the challenge	Event day!	Event day!
		30		20)			