

Beginners: 5k Sample Training Programme (5k = 3 Miles & 172 metres)

SET A GOAL BEFORE YOU START

Having a goal at the start of any exercise programme can be a great motivator and in many cases can make the difference between sticking with it or giving up.

For someone starting an exercise programme for the first time or just getting back into exercise after a long break it can be a difficult and daunting experience. How much should I do? How far should I run? What pace should I run at? What rest should I have between runs? These are all questions that are common, so if you have asked yourself any of them, don't worry – you're not alone!

GETTING STARTED

The good thing about starting out on a beginners programme is that the terms 'walk' and 'rest' are used quite a lot! Once you have decided on the run to take part in you should work backwards to however many weeks programme you are following. This sample programme lasts eight weeks and is aimed at getting you to the finish line. It assumes that you have no major health problems, are in reasonable shape, and have perhaps done at least some jogging or walking beforehand.



The following programme is only a suggestion and should be adapted to suit your work and home life and the days of the week that it is most convenient for you to exercise. As with all exercise programmes you should always do some gentle movement warm-up exercises beforehand and some stretching exercises to warm-down afterwards. If you have read this then you have taken the first steps towards getting fit enough for the 5k run! Happy running!

TERMINOLOGY

Walk: Brisk walking pace (faster than walking to the newsagents).

Jog: Gentle running pace (able to chat easily throughout).

Walk/Jog: Periods of walking followed by periods of jogging (vary the times and number of walks and jogs depending on total target time/distance).

Run: Faster pace than jogging but still able to chat (not continuously though!).

Rest: Either a day off exercise completely or other exercise such as swimming, aerobics or cycling.

Beginners: sample 5k programme

Weeks until run	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
8	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	30 minute walk	1 mile walk/jog
7	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	30 minute walk	1 mile walk/jog
6	REST	1 mile walk/jog	REST	1 mile jog/run	REST	40 minute walk	1 mile jog/run
5	REST	1½ mile walk/jog	REST	1 mile jog/run	REST	40 minute walk	1½ mile jog/run
4	REST	1½ mile walk/jog	REST	1½ mile jog/run	REST	50 minute walk	2 mile jog/run
3	REST	1½ mile walk/jog	REST	1½ mile jog/run	REST	50 minute walk	2 mile run
2	REST	2 mile walk/jog	REST	2 mile jog/run	REST	60 minute walk	2½ mile run
1	REST	2 mile walk/jog	REST	1½ mile walk/jog	REST	REST	5k run

The programme is suggested advice and should be adapted to suit your work and home life and the days of the week that it is most convenient for you to exercise. Do not worry too much about exact distances, just try to cover the approximate time for each distance stated at your normal running pace.

As with all exercise programmes you should always do some gentle movement warm-up exercises beforehand and some stretching exercises to warm-down afterwards. As with any physical activity programme please consult your GP before commencing if you have any health concerns.

It's party time! You've done a 5k run!



Even super-heroes love a goody bag!