42 Easy Challenges to Lift Your Spirits

Need a quick jolt of energy and cheer? Try these easy challenges. Complete one every day, or see how many you can finish in a single day. Cross them off as you go—gold star for you!

Clear off one shelf	Make something— whether it's as simple as a plate of cupcakes or as complex as a wooden chair	Help someone move forward—teach someone a skill, make an introduction, act as a sounding-board	Learn to do something new	Replace all burned-out light bulbs	Donate to a cause you believe in	7 Write a haiku
Eat a meal in an unusual spot or have family members switch from their usual chairs	Spend 30 min reading or listening to a book from your "to read" pile	Decide you don't want to read a book in your "to read" pile and plan to give it away	Use an appliance that's never been used before	Use something that's been gathering dust—play the piano, pull out the sewing machine, flex those exercise bands	Catch up on magazines	Take a moment to appreaciate the flavor of ketchup
Make a list of your 30 favorite TV shows, or movies, or books	Take the first three steps toward crossing a major nagging task off your to-do list	Use a face, body, or hair product that you own but never used	Wear a costume during a video call to surprise people on the other side	Write an email or letter to someone you love	Sharpen your knives	Download and use an app that you've been meaning to start using
Reorganize a space in your home to make it more comfortable or better suited to a new function	Find a happy photo taken with some friends or family and send it to everyone in the photo	Experiment with a new form of exercise	Have a "picnic," in whatever form that might take	Update your resume, LinkedIn profile, or cover letter	Unsubscribe to email newsletters you no longer read	Check under all the beds—you might find things you've lost, or that you forgot you had
Do 50 jumping jacks	Make a point of using up all the mostly-eaten containers of food	Squeak some cornstarch between your fingers	Declare a Family Prank Day	Sit outside and listen to the birds	Re-read old journals or look through old photo albums	Make a Scrapbook of Now
Tackle some pet care—give your dog a bath, change the water in your fish tank	Go for a 20-minute walk outside	Mail a handwritten postcard	Use the "good china" or fancy plates you don't use often	Use something you've been saving like candles, nail polish, or lotion	Do someone else's chore, as a treat	Delete all unused apps from your phone

