



SPEAKER ♦ COMEDIAN

**kate davis**

**BALANCING LIFE  
WITH HUMOUR**

# BALANCING LIFE WITH HUMOUR

## ▶ **Doing What You Love**

Finding what you love can be hard work, the key is to always try new stuff and find not only what you enjoy but also something you admire. Whether it's a new language, pottery classes, and writing, joining a community theatre... Always be producing even if it's for 5 minutes a day. This is Key to balancing your life.

## ▶ **Accept Where You Are**

Once you accept where you are, you are able to be more present to the life you are in and that's when you can change everything.

## ▶ **Get Rid of the “Shoulds” Replace Them With “Could’s”**

So often we use Should when judging someone's actions or our own and all this “shoulding” has a heavy weight as we judge ourselves against this imagined standard.

## ▶ **Bringing Humour Into Our Lives**

We choose anger because we don't know what else to do to get the results we want. Whether it's in the playroom or in the boardroom. Don't take yourself so seriously. Humour makes people act nicer to each other. Humour motivates people to work harder and feel better about themselves. Humour thrives on inclusivity and so does the workplace.

- It's not about the next laugh it's about not taking ourselves too seriously
- Put a twist on what stresses you/exaggerate your stress
- Laughter wasn't created in a vacuum it needs people to spread it
- Your mood affects people around you
- Laugh out Loud
- Fun cancels out stress and brings everyone into the moment

## ▶ **Become a Character**

Bugs Bunny, A Robot, Cowboy, Opera Singer, Rock Star. Just be more playful and don't take yourself so seriously. Sing the Blues, write a rap song and sing it at the dinner table.



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## ▶ **Let Go Of The Inner Critic!**

## ▶ **Always Listen To Yourself**

Your intuition will always lead to answers and your fear and guilt will always lead to more questions. Whether it's a feeling in your stomach or a voice in your head. Never second-guess your internal compass.

## ▶ **We All Deal With Stress Differently: “The Tending Instinct”**

This is a natural process of dealing with stress. Respect each other's differences. Today's crisis is tomorrow's great joke.

## ▶ **Don't Play the Martyr**

People in our lives learn by example, live to your fullest potential and follow your dreams.

## ▶ **Letting Go Of Negative Thoughts**

A great way to do this is with “**Affirmations**” Write out all your negative beliefs about yourself (if one person was to say one of these thoughts to us we would never speak to them again but we can say it to ourselves 10 times a day) and then write them all out in Positive. Get rid of the negative ones, burn them, or throw them in the trash! Then whenever a negative thought comes back replace it with the new positive one. After a while your life will start to change and no longer will your negative beliefs hold you back from creating the life you want.

## ▶ **Visualization & Relaxation**

Like an athlete visualizing crossing the finish line first, visualizing can be used for anything you want to accomplish in your life. Even if it's for 2 minutes a day, focusing on your breath and quietly telling yourself to let go of your tension from your head to your toes. Then visualizing where you want to be in your life. Visualizing has huge health benefits both physically mentally and emotionally.

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## What Is A Work/Life Balance Goal?

Work-life balance goals need to be SMART goals - **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time Framed**. Most people will have a few or several SMART work-life balance goals which when combined and achieved will result in a good work-life balance.

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From the book “Love Yourself, Heal Your Life” by Louise Hay  
Exercise Replacing Your “Shoulds”

As I have said many times, I believe that “Should” is one of the most damaging words in our language. Every time we use it, we are in effect saying, “Wrong” Either we are wrong, or we were wrong or we are going to be wrong. I would like to take the word “should” out of our vocabulary forever and replace it with the word “Could.” Could gives us choice and we are never wrong. Think of five things that you “Should” do.

## I Should

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## Replace Your SHOULD with COULD

## I Could

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# **affirmations**

**Negative Beliefs**

**Positive Beliefs**

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## intuition

### Harvard Business Review

One decision-making tool—human intuition—seems to offer a reliable alternative to painstaking fact gathering and analysis. Encouraged by scientific research on intuition, top managers feel increasingly confident that, when faced with complicated choices, they can just trust their gut. Indeed, a survey that was conducted in May 2002 by executive search firm Christian & Timbers reveals that fully 45% of corporate executives now rely more on instinct than on facts and figures in running their businesses.

<http://www.ctnet.com/pr/releaseDetails.asp?prid=151>

### Investor's Business Daily

FAST Company's John Byrne climbs a steep learning curve  
“... I'm learning to follow my intuition.”

<http://tinyurl.com/6j7pv>

### Bizjournals.com - USA

DON'T ignore intuition  
Almost all business owners I've worked with have a bad story of what happened when they ignored their intuition.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/moneycenter/story.html?id=3156>

### Forbes Magazine

“The Golden Gut”

At best, an intuitive leap can mark a breakthrough. “When you're entering an area where the unknowns are high, and experience is important, if you don't rely on intuition you're cutting yourself short,” says Howard Gardner, professor of cognition and education at Harvard University.

<http://www.forbes.com/asap/2002/1007/Hunches.html>

### Intuition At Work

article by Roger Frantz

What do Chrysler chairman Robert Eaton and Albert Einstein have in common? They both found value in using their intuition!

<http://tinyurl.com/6575y>

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## Advice About Intuition From Business Leaders

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**Michael Eisner**  
*CEO of the Walt Disney Company*  
“Balanced emotions are crucial to  
intuitive decision making.”

”

**Donna Karan**  
*Fashion designer*

“One of our greatest gifts is our intuition. It is a sixth sense we all have — we just need to learn to tap into and trust it.”

**Masaru Ibuka**  
*Founder and chairman of Japan’s Sony Corp.*

Asked in an interview, “What is the secret of your success?” He said he had a ritual. Preceding a business decision, he would drink herbal tea. Before he drank, he asked himself, “Should I make this deal or not?” If the tea gave him indigestion, he wouldn’t make the deal. “I trust my gut, and I know how it works,” he said. “My mind is not that smart, but my body is.”

**Carly Fiorina**  
*Chief executive officer, president and chairman of Hewlett — Packard*

“Engage your heart, your gut, and your mind in every decision you make.”  
“I think leadership takes what I call a strong internal compass. When the winds are howling and the storms are raging and the sky is cloudy so you have nothing to navigate by, a compass tells you where the north is, I think when you’re in a difficult situation, a lonely situation, you have to rely on that compass to tell you if you’re doing the right things for the right reasons in the right ways. Sometimes that’s all you have.”

**Tom Peters**  
*Management consultant and best selling author*

“Leaders trust their guts. “Intuition” is one of those good words that has gotten a bad rap. For some reason, intuition has become a “soft” notion. Garbage! Intuition is the new physics. It’s an Einsteinian, seven-sense, practical way to make tough decisions. Bottom line, circa 2001 to 2010: The crazier the times are, the more important it is for leaders to develop and to trust their intuition.”



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## Advice About Intuition From Business Leaders

### Tom Prichard

#### *Vice president for marketing at LeapFrog*

“We use gut instinct a little bit like scientific principle, where we’ve got a hypothesis — a spark that comes from gut instinct — and we’ll try to validate it with teachers, children, and parents. If there’s a big difference between our research and our instinct, it sends up a red flag. Many times we find the instinct was correct, but that in the research, the vision didn’t come through well enough. Other companies might walk away. When we’ve got a great feeling about a product, we don’t walk away.”

### Chuck Porter

#### *Chairman of advertising agency Crispin Porter & Bogusky*

creator of the BMW Mini campaign

“When it comes to creating advertising, we don’t research it. We don’t believe in testing ads with focus groups. We know that kind of research doesn’t ever work. So when we finish an ad, the system we use is, Do you feel it? Do you feel when you look at this ad that it’s going to resonate with people? Will it reach out and grab them? Basically we use instinct, because we know the audience so well.”

### Doug Greene

#### *Chairman of New Hope Communications*

“If I don’t feel good in my stomach about a decision,” Greene told me, “I don’t care if the numbers say we’re going to make a billion dollars. That’s how important intuition is to me. It’s an actual feeling either way. When it doesn’t feel good, it’s just like a stomachache or a nervous stomach. and when a decision feels right, it’s like a great meal.”

### Simon Woodroffe

#### *Founder and Chairman of the YO! Sushi chain of restaurants*

“So what I do now is instead of deciding whether to do it or not, I simply say, ‘right Simon, your job for the next three months is simply to research this project’. Whether you do the project or not is irrelevant. At the end of three months, you have a knowledge base that provides you with the information on whether to do it or not. The rest is intuition — does it feel right.”

### Richard Abdo

#### *Chair and CEO of Wisconsin Energy Corporation*

“As we move to a deregulated marketplace, we don’t have this slow process of hearings and review and two years to make a decision. We now have to make decisions in a timely manner. And that means that we process the best information that’s available and infer from it and use our intuition to make a decision.”

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## Work/Life Balance

### TIPS TO RECLAIM CONTROL

If you're struggling to achieve work-life balance, you're not alone. Understand how to better manage your time, detach from work and care for yourself.

Once upon a time the boundaries between work and home were fairly clear. Today, however, work is likely to invade your personal life — and maintaining work-life balance is no simple task.

This might be especially true if you work long hours. Technology that enables constant connection can allow work to bleed into your time at home. Working from home also can blur professional and personal boundaries.

Still, work-life balance is possible. Consider your relationship to work and ways to strike a healthier balance.

### Married To Work? Consider the Cost

If you're spending most of your time working, your work and your home life might be negatively affected. Consider the consequences of poor work/life balance:

#### **Fatigue**

When you're tired, your ability to work productively and think clearly might suffer — which could take a toll on your professional reputation or lead to dangerous or costly mistakes.

#### **Poor Health**

Stress can worsen symptoms related to many medical conditions and put you at risk of substance misuse.

#### **Lost time with friends and loved ones.**

If you're working too much, you might miss important family events or milestones. This can leave you feeling left out and might harm your relationships.

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## Strike A Better Work/Life Balance

As long as you're working, juggling the demands of career and personal life will probably be an ongoing challenge. But by setting limits and looking after yourself, you can achieve the work-life balance that's best for you.

### Setting Limits

If you don't set limits, work can leave you with no time for the relationships and activities you enjoy. Consider these strategies:

#### Manage your time

Give yourself enough time to get things done. Don't overschedule yourself.

#### Learn to say "no"

Evaluate your priorities at work and at home and try to shorten your to-do list. Cut or delegate activities you don't enjoy or can't handle — or share your concerns and possible solutions with your employer or others. When you quit accepting tasks out of guilt or a false sense of obligation, you'll have more time for activities that are meaningful to you.

#### Detach from work

Working from home or frequently using technology to connect to work when you're at home can cause you to feel like you're always on the job. This can lead to chronic stress. Seek guidance from your manager about expectations for when you can disconnect. If you work from home, dress for work and have a quiet dedicated workspace, if possible. When you're done working each day, detach and transition to home life by changing your outfit, taking a drive or walk, or doing an activity with your kids.

#### Consider your options

Ask your employer about flex hours, a compressed workweek, job sharing or other scheduling flexibility. The more control you have over your hours, the less stressed you're likely to be.

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## Strike A Better Work/Life Balance

### Caring For Yourself

A healthy lifestyle is essential to coping with stress and to achieving work-life balance. Eat well, include physical activity in your daily routine and get enough sleep. In addition, aim to:

#### **Relax**

Give yourself enough time to get things done. Don't overschedule yourself.

#### **Volunteer**

Evaluate your priorities at work and at home and try to shorten your to-do list. Cut or delegate activities you don't enjoy or can't handle — or share your concerns and possible solutions with your employer or others. When you quit accepting tasks out of guilt or a false sense of obligation, you'll have more time for activities that are meaningful to you.

#### **Develop a Support System**

Working from home or frequently using technology to connect to work when you're at home can cause you to feel like you're always on the job. This can lead to chronic stress. Seek guidance from your manager about expectations for when you can disconnect. If you work from home, dress for work and have a quiet dedicated workspace, if possible. When you're done working each day, detach and transition to home life by changing your outfit, taking a drive or walk, or doing an activity with your kids.

## Know When To Seek Professional Help

If your life feels too chaotic to manage and you're spinning your wheels worrying about it, talk to a mental health provider. If you have access to an employee assistance program, take advantage of available services.

Creating work-life balance is a continuous process as your family, interests and work life change. Periodically examine your priorities — and make changes, if necessary — to make sure you're keeping on track.

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## Suggested Reading

**Inner Peace for the Busy Women** - Joan Z. Borsenko

**Inner Peace for Busy People** - Joan Z. Borsenko

**Life is Short-Wear Your Party Pants** and other books - Loretta LaRoche

**You Can Heal Your Life** - Louise Hay

**You Are a Badass** - Jen Sincero

**A Woman's Worth** - Marianne Williamson

**Getting Unstuck** - Dr. Joy Browne

**10 Secrets of Success and Inner Peace** - Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

**Wisdom of the Heart** - Alan Cohen

**How to Ruin Your Life** - Ben Stein

**Gratitude** - Louise Hay

**Love is Letting Go of Fear** - Gerald Jampolsky

**Creative Visualization** - Shakti Gawain

**The Gift of Fear** - Gavin De Becker

**Man's Search for Meaning** - Viktor Frankl



