

How To Turn Challenging Situations Around

By

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A note from the authors

We're thrilled that you've found this and are bursting to share some **astonishing** discoveries we've made about challenging situations - and how to turn them around.

A few years ago, we noticed a common theme beginning to emerge in diverse areas of philosophy, productivity and problem solving. Our focus, ever since then, has been on weaving the various strands of this theme together.

The result is as much a **way of thinking** as a process, so expect to have your mindset transformed as you apply what we're about to share with you to your situation.

All the best - we hope that the journey you're about to commence will transform **your** life the way it has **ours**.

Gary & Lynne Bartlett

PS. Please reserve judgement on anything that seems counter-intuitive or difficult to grasp at first. You won't regret it!

Navigation

Most navigation is done at the bottom of the page and on the left panel. Click:

at the **bottom right** of each page to **advance** a page,

at the **bottom left** of each page to **go back** a page.

<<<<< Click on the top 5 of these links

<<<<< to jump directly to a **section menu**

The **Back** and **Next** buttons at the top left of the application window will scroll you through pages **you've already seen**.

The **Glossary** is accessible via the left panel.

Change the **Font Size** via the button at the top of the application window.

Print individual pages with the application print button.

Introduction

The purpose of this FreeBook

This FreeBook is a **first step** to thinking about things - and approaching them - in different way.

It **may** be for you - it may **not** be.

The best way to find out is to read it and have a go at applying it to your situation.

If the concept doesn't **grab** you - and you don't see, hear or think something unexpectedly profound within the next week or so - then it's probably **not** for you.

If, however, a **light goes on** in your head - or something you see, hear or stumble across in the next few days **zaps** you - then it probably **is** for you!

If it **is** for you, we'll help you take the next step of improving your effectiveness dramatically - and gaining a whole new perspective on things as you do so.

How to make the most of this FreeBook

You will get the most from this FreeBook by:

1. **Reading over the Concept** a few times in the next few days. It's not very long - or hard to follow.

You'll find that your mind will automatically begin to tie the various strands together in a way that makes sense to you.

2. **Learning the Process** by applying it to the challenging situation you face. It won't be easy at the beginning - it's like learning to ride a bicycle. Incredibly hard at first and incredibly easy before long.

3. **Making a conscious decision to take a next step.**

Whatever you do, don't fall into the trap everyone else falls into, of thinking that you can get most of the benefit from a single reading, unapplied.

Conceptual overview

Nearly **any** challenging situation can be turned around!

The secret is to treat it **systemically**.

By "systemically", we mean as a **dynamic system** in which the elements interact with one another rather than as a **static object** that has independent components.

Our society is good at dealing with **objects**, but not that crash-hot at dealing with **systems**. But we've found a way!

We've found a way of thinking about and approaching things systemically. It's simple, quick and effective, but (obviously!) quite different from the conventional approach, so you'll need a bit of practice before it becomes second nature to you.

The effort is worth it, however, because it will work - without fail, every single time - in **any** challenging situation!

Mind control

If you want to learn to think in a **new** way, you're going to have to **fight your natural instinct** to stick to the **old** way.

Your brain cannot do anything **but** choose the "best way" on the day - the way it knows best - the old way.

In time - and with practice - the new way will **become** the "best way." Until then, you'll have to fight the temptation to quit, postpone or take a rest.

With something like this, there is **no such thing** as resting. If you're not practising one thing, you're practising another - and **practice makes perfect!**

What sort of thinking do **you** want to perfect?

Well then - you've got to take charge and make your mind knuckle down to it! You won't **feel** like it - you'll come up with all **sorts** of excuses. Remember: **mind control!**

Concept Menu

Concept Intro

Your world is about to change.

Things are going to look very different - very soon!

Just reading about the concept will affect the way you think - for a while, anyway!

Accelerate the process - read it a few times quite quickly rather than once slowly.

Turbocharge the process - try to guess/remember, what the next page is about before you get to it.

Lock it into long-term memory - read it at least once a day this week and then a couple of times next week.

Make it part of you - explain it to someone else.

Make it second nature - go to sleep thinking about the implications in your areas of interest. Go for it!

Improving situations systemically

When a situation becomes challenging it's an indication that our current solution (approach) is getting to the end of its lifetime.

It has either solved all the problems it's able to solve, or the situation has changed and produced new problems, which the current solution can't solve either.

It's obvious what's needed: a more powerful solution - one that will solve the problems that the old solution couldn't solve.

It should be straightforward, but it isn't, is it? Why not?

Well, there are a few reasons - all related to the fact that our society underplays a very important reality:

Systemic problems: The keys

Did you hear about the guy who was helping a drunk friend search for his car keys at 2:00 in the morning?

"Do you realise we've spent half an hour looking in the street – and only NOW you decide to tell me you dropped them in the field?"

"Well, the light's better in the street. It's so dark where I dropped them, we'd be looking for them all night!"

In order to **find** the pattern, we have to know **where to look** for it!

It mightn't be a bad idea to know **what** it looks like too!

Fortunately, the two are so closely related that when we know what we're looking for, we'll also know where to look for it! And vice versa.

Can you hazard a guess as to what the pattern would look like - and where to look for it?

Systemic solutions

What?!!

How can **that** be true?

Surely, if there was a solution to the PLP, we would have solved it long ago?
It all depends on what you call a solution. There are heaps of solutions: the problem is that none of them works!
Stay with us on this one, OK?
Let's be more explicit. There are heaps of solutions: the problem is that none of them works on its own.

Changing paradigms

We've all come across situations in which a solution has been developed and everyone agrees that it's a good solution, but it doesn't ever get implemented.
Can't think of one? Here's a hint: 1 January!
Have you ever stopped to wonder why it's so difficult to get even the best stuff implemented?
We'll tell you why:
It's because we disregard people's mental paradigms (especially our own) - and how difficult it is to change them - when we get to implementation!
We forget that everything is systemic! We make a single massive effort and then look for something - or someone - to blame when it doesn't work.
All that effort - what a waste! But what option do we have?

The concept in a nutshell

The key to turning challenging situations around is to treat them systemically not statically. This involves analysis and synthesis - not just deeper and deeper analysis.
The systemic approach is a lot easier than it appears - once you understand the Fractal Principle - "Challenging situations are made up of repeating patterns."
Probsolv's problem-solving system uses repeating patterns concept to:
1. Identify the systemic problem in any challenging situation.
2. Develop a powerful systemic solution to that problem.
3. Design a systemic way of implementing that solution.
Each of the cycles involves nothing more than:
1. Listing items (issues, solutions and scripts) which is analysing.
2. Finding the common theme across them all (PLP, PMA and PCP),
which is synthesising.
Once we can see the theme, we begin to see it everywhere. Our brains delight in making the connections and before long, we're understanding and approaching the challenging situation in an ever-increasingly systemic way.

Where to from here?

Well, that's the systemic thinking concept.
Whether you need to turn a specific situation around or develop an organisational strategy, the systemic approach - and way of thinking - will give you a whole new perspective on things.

If what you've just seen is totally new to you, your head will probably be spinning a bit! If so, we recommend that you **read the concept part** again immediately - or at least, within the next 24 hours - before progressing to the process part.

If the concept made sense to you and you're raring to learn how to apply it, **continue on to the process part** - it is a step-by-step introduction to Probsolv Light.

It's only an intro to Probsolv Light - to give you a feel for it. There's a lot more to Probsolv Light than we've included here!

Thanks for reading this far.....

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