



An Ounce Of

PREVENTION

A Guide To Heart Health



U.S.
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
AND HUMAN
SERVICES
Public
Health Service

1

JAN. 1998

Featuring the Ramírez Family



Mariano



Virginia



Doña Fela



Néstor



Carmencita



National Institutes of Health
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute and Office of Research on Minority Health

Dear Reader:

An Ounce of Prevention is a simple and entertaining workbook to help you and your family protect yourselves against heart disease, the leading cause of death among Latinos and all Americans.

The workbook introduces you to the Ramírez family: grandmother Doña Fela; Señor Mariano and Señora Virginia; and their children, Néstor and Carmencita. The Ramírez family has learned that health is priceless. With determination and the good example from Doña Fela, the family has made some simple changes in their lives to protect their heart health.

In these pages, the Ramírez family will show you how to make the same kind of investment in your own heart health. They will share practical tips and even tricks that you can use to make simple changes that should help you and your family enjoy the fruits of your labor and live long, healthy, happy lives.

This workbook is dedicated to you. So make your pledge to invest in a heart healthy lifestyle for you and your family. And, now that you have this useful guide to get you started, hands to work!

Sincerely,

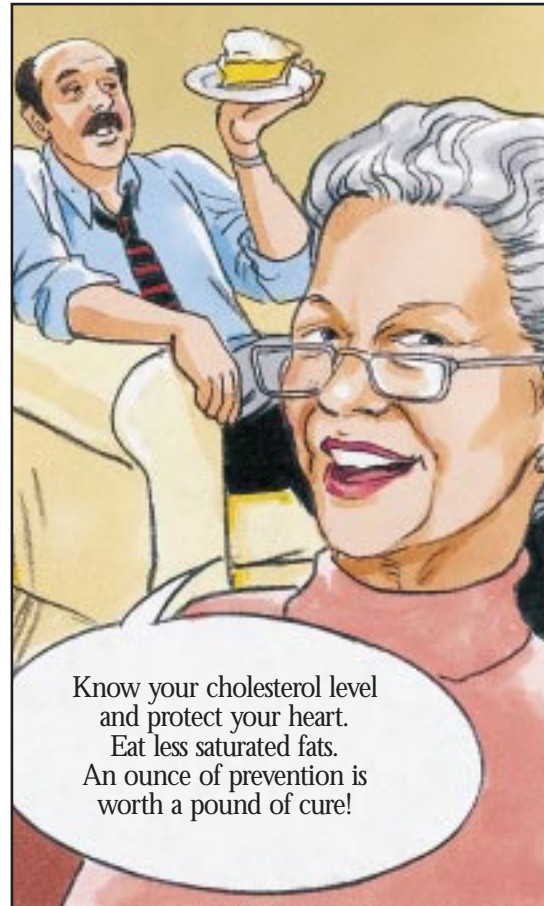
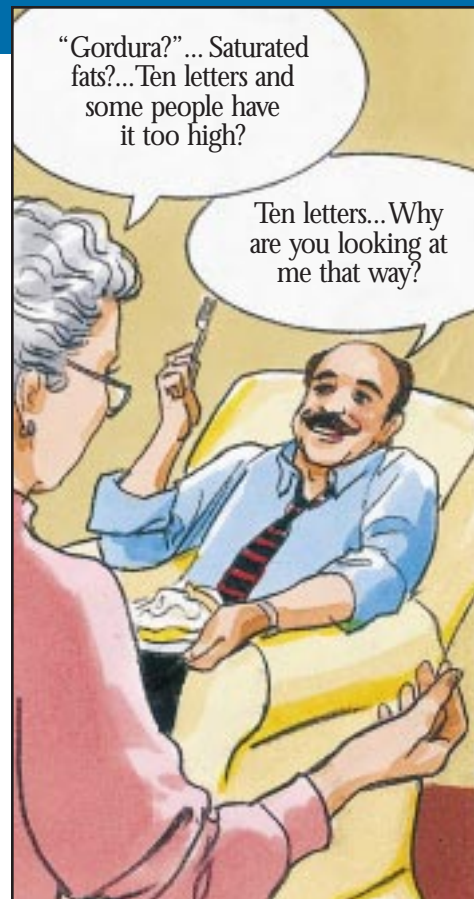
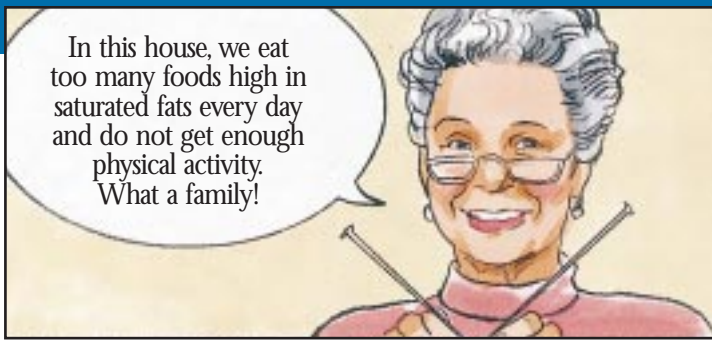


Claude Lenfant, Director
National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute



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Be good to your heart. Eat less fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol.

Eating low fat, low cholesterol foods can help you reduce your blood cholesterol level and your weight and prevent heart disease. It also sets a good example for your children.

Do you know your cholesterol number?

A total blood cholesterol level of less than **200** is desirable.

A level of **240** or higher is high blood cholesterol.

But even a level between **200** and **240** can increase your risk of heart disease.

If you don't know your number, ask your doctor about it.

Write your blood cholesterol number here:



Make the switch to heart-healthy eating today!

Doña Fela has learned that it's not difficult to get your family to eat low fat, low cholesterol foods.

How I switched my family from whole to skim milk.

To switch my family from drinking whole milk to skim milk, I served them whole milk mixed with 2% milk for a month.

During the next month, I served them 2% milk mixed with 1% milk, then 1% milk mixed with skim milk, until they were drinking only skim milk. Soon they couldn't even taste the difference.



Try some of these simple changes:

When Shopping

1. Buy 1% or skim milk and low fat or fat free cheese.
2. Buy nonstick cooking oil spray. Spray it on baking pans and skillet instead of using a lot of fat for greasing pans.
3. Use the food label to help you choose foods lower in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol.

When Cooking

1. Trim the fat from meat and the skin and fat from chicken and turkey before cooking.
2. Cook ground meat and drain the fat.
3. Cool soups and remove the layer of fat that rises to the top.

When Eating

1. Use fat free or low fat salad dressing, mayonnaise, or sour cream.
2. Use small amounts of margarine instead of butter.
3. Choose fruits and vegetables instead of high fat foods like chips or fries.



Virginia has learned that eating foods high in saturated fat can raise her blood cholesterol level. So she's modified her favorite pie recipe by using margarine, skim milk, and low fat cream cheese. Now the pie is lower in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol, and it still tastes great.

Make your personal pledge to do what Virginia has done! Look at these examples:



Breakfast

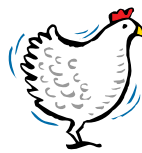
Use 1% milk in coffee or cereal.

Lunch

Use leftover turkey to make a sandwich. Eat it with some raw carrots and a banana for dessert.



Dinner



Bake chicken with lime juice, cilantro, and tomatoes. Take the skin off and throw it away before cooking.

Snack

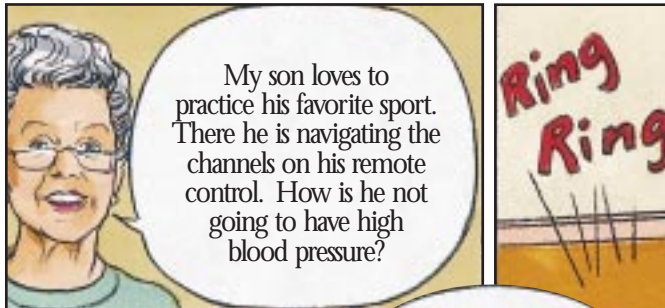
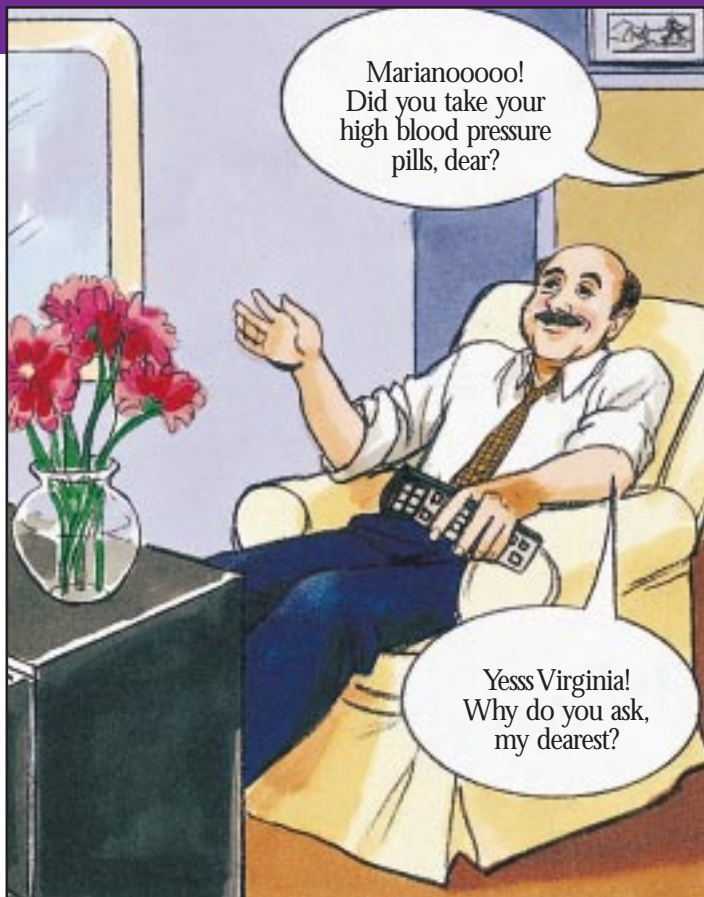
Eat an apple instead of fatty tortilla chips.



Write the changes you will try to make this week:

**Your health and your family's health is priceless.
Make an investment in it!**

An Unsettling Surprise: Prevent High Blood Pressure





We might lack certain things in this house, but emotions, we always have more than enough of.



Lolo, this is my father. Papa, this is Lolo. Papa?... Do you feel OK?

How can my daughter fall for this kid?



Mariano, I found your pills, and you haven't taken them. If you don't take them, you will not get to enjoy your grandchildren.

If you have high blood pressure, you can control it. Take your pills, cut down on salt and sodium, watch your weight, and be more active. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!

Keep your heart in mind. Eat less salt and sodium.

Eating less salt and sodium can help prevent and lower your high blood pressure, and it sets a good example for your children.

Do you know your blood pressure reading?

Desirable blood pressure is **120/80**.

If your blood pressure is **140/90** or higher, you have high blood pressure.

High blood pressure does not go away by itself.
Ask your doctor for help in lowering it.

If you don't know your blood pressure reading, ask your doctor about it.

Write down your blood pressure reading here:



SPICE IT UP!

Discover how much flavor you can add by using spices and herbs.

Doña Fela has learned that it's not hard to get your family to eat less salt and sodium.

To make food taste good without salt, I use cilantro, cumin, fresh garlic, parsley, onion, green pepper, oregano, and even a dash of hot pepper when I cook. Everyone in my family got used to the taste of foods with less salt.



To break your family's habit of using the salt shaker at the table, try Doña Fela's secret recipe!

Fill the salt shaker with this combination of herbs and spices and use it, instead of salt, to flavor foods:

- 1/4 cup chili powder
- 2 tablespoons paprika
- 2 teaspoons oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper

Take the lead and try these simple changes:

When Shopping

1. Buy fresh plain, frozen, or no salt added canned vegetables.
2. Buy fresh garlic or garlic powder instead of garlic salt.
3. Choose foods labeled “low sodium,” “sodium free,” or “no salt added.”



When Cooking

1. Use half the amount of salt you normally use.
2. Add little or no salt to the water when cooking beans, rice, pasta, and vegetables.
3. Cut back on smoked, cured, and processed beef, pork, and poultry like bologna, ham, and sausage.



When Eating

1. Fill the salt shaker with a mixture of herbs and spices.
2. Use small amounts of margarine instead of butter.
3. Choose fruits and vegetables instead of salty snacks like chips, fries, and pork rinds.



Mariano has learned to control his high blood pressure: He takes his blood pressure pills with breakfast every morning to make sure that he doesn't forget to take them. He has stopped smoking and walks daily. And he's found that food can still taste good with less salt and sodium.

Make your personal pledge to do what Mariano has done! Look at these examples:

Breakfast

Prepare oatmeal with 1% milk, raisins, cinnamon, and no salt.

Lunch

Use leftover chicken to make a sandwich instead of using luncheon meats.



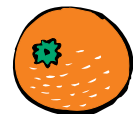
Dinner



Make your own soup with vegetables and half the amount of salt.

Snack

Eat an orange without salt instead of salty chips.

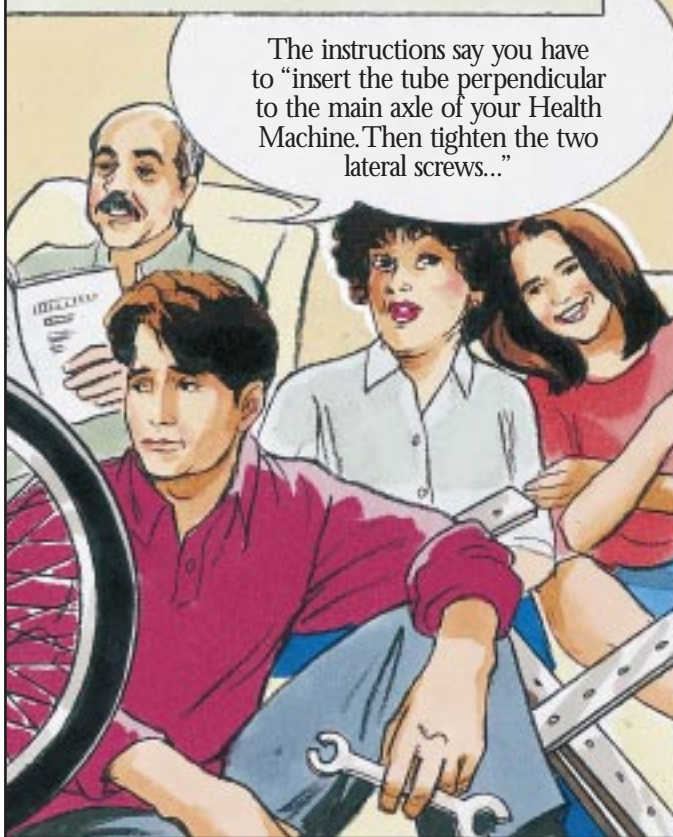


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The New Health Machine: Exercise

The Ramírez family just got their new "health machine."



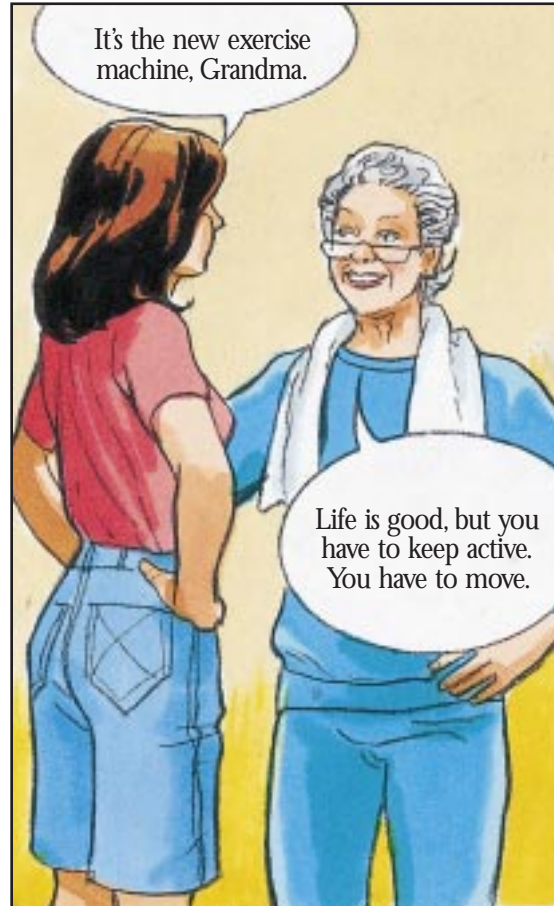
I told you, mamá, my friend Ana lost 10 pounds, and her machine isn't even a shadow of ours ...



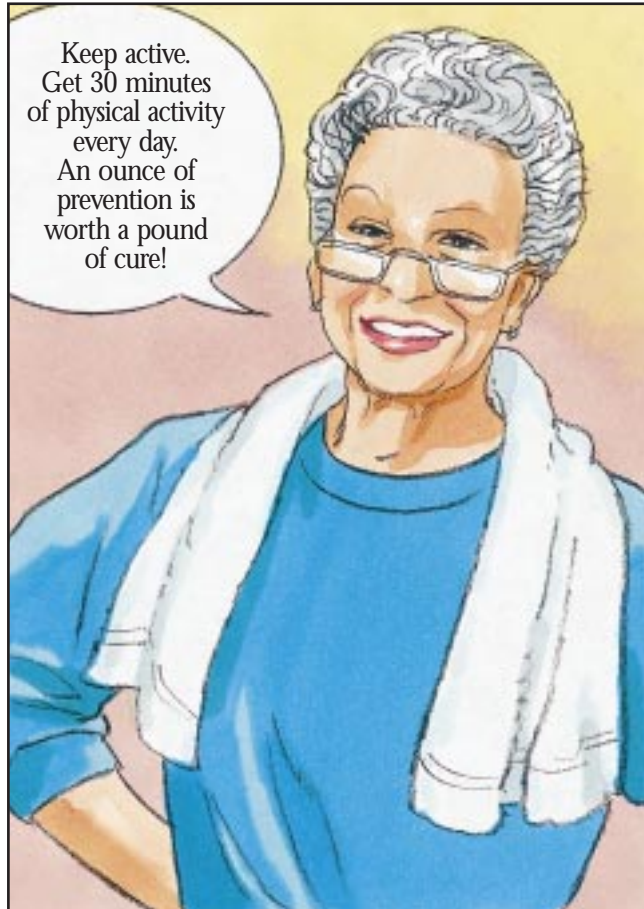
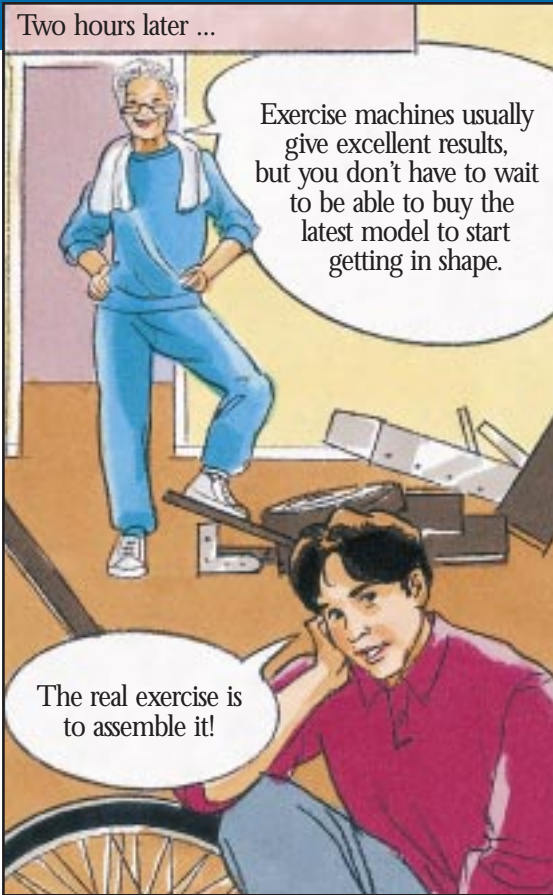
I hope it's easier to use than it is to put together!



It's the new exercise machine, Grandma.

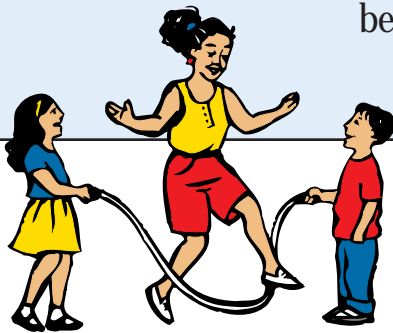


Two hours later ...



Take heart. Say YES to physical activity.

Regular physical activity can help your heart and lungs work better, lower your blood pressure and blood cholesterol, lower your blood sugar, and help you control your appetite and weight. What's more, it can help you relax and feel less tense and sleep better, as well as feel more energetic and good about yourself.



Make staying active a lifelong habit.

Doña Fela has learned that the more physical activity you do, the easier it gets.



I do not wait until the end of the day. I am active throughout the day. I take the stairs instead of the elevators and walk everywhere I can. Now I am up to walking 30 minutes a day with Leticia, my neighbor. It helps to like what you do and to do it with someone else. We are so busy talking we walk even longer.

Keep moving. Start slowly and work your way up!

Strive to do 30 minutes of activity every day. If you're short on time, try three 10-minute periods.

A good place to start



- Use the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Get off the bus one or two stops early and walk.

Move to these activities

- Walk
- Rake leaves
- Dance
- Jump rope
- Garden
- Ride a stationary bike



Increase to this higher level



- Running
- Aerobic dancing
- Swimming
- Floor exercises
- Sports
- Jumping jacks
- Soccer
- Bicycling

Other things to do to help you and your family get started:

- Leave a pair of walking shoes in your car.
- Set a date and time with a co-worker to begin walking.



Carmencita, Virginia, and Néstor have all increased their physical activity. They now dance and use their exercise machine almost every day. And Mariano also jogs in place each day.

Make your personal pledge to exercise like the Ramírez family does! Look at these examples:

Morning

Park the car a few blocks away and walk for 10 minutes.

Noon

During lunch, walk with a friend for 10 minutes.

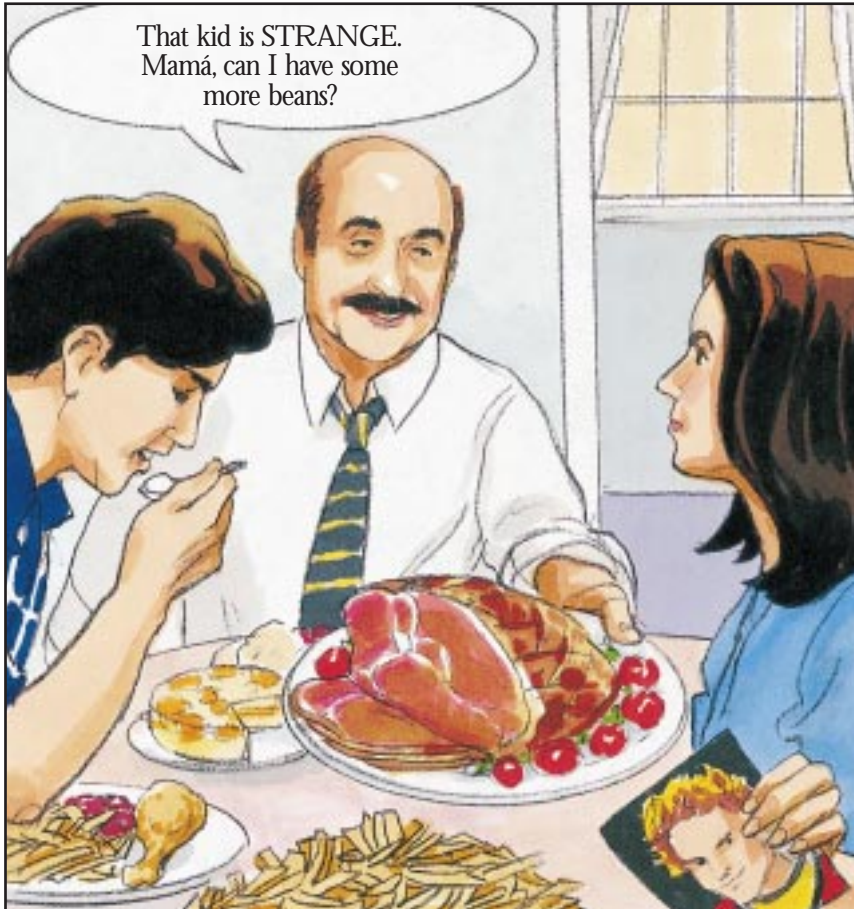
Evening

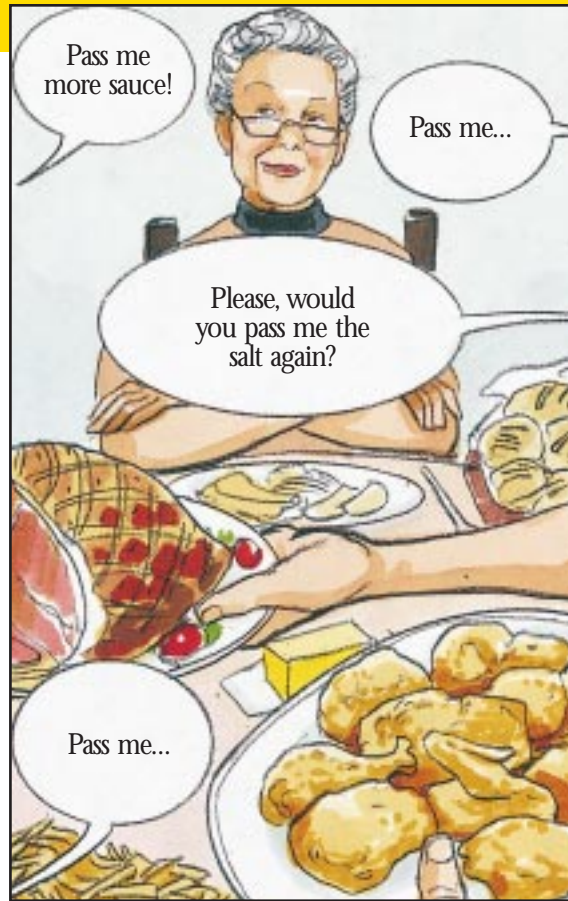
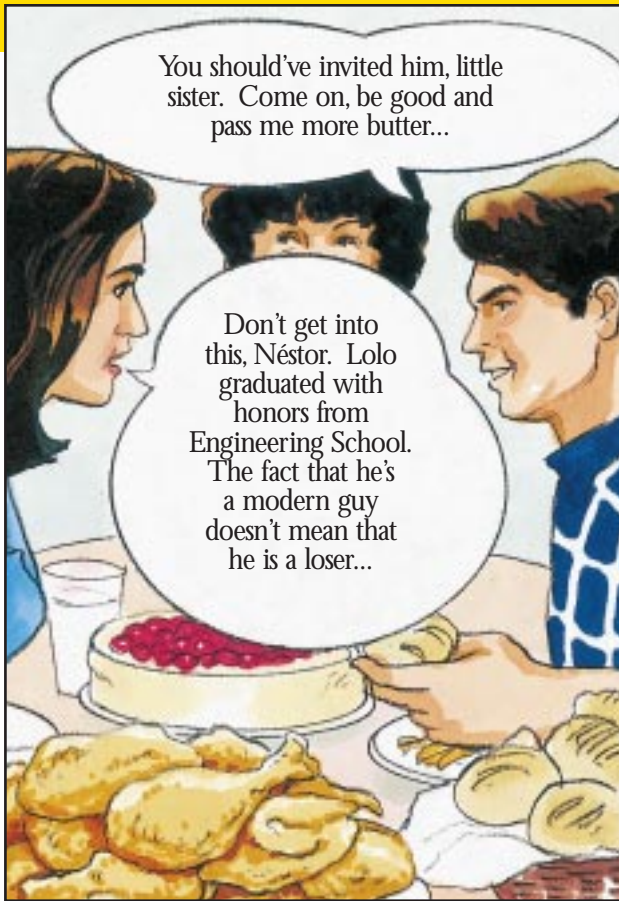
After dinner, ride a stationary bike for 10 minutes while watching television.

Write the changes you will try to make this week:

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I Don't Like That Boy At All: Watch Your Weight





My dear family, don't you realize that if you eat so much, you will get fat? Pass me more of this ... pass me more of that. We are what we eat, and this family is eating enough for a family of ten.

To prevent heart disease, watch your weight, serve yourself small portions, and eat foods lower in fat and calories! An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!



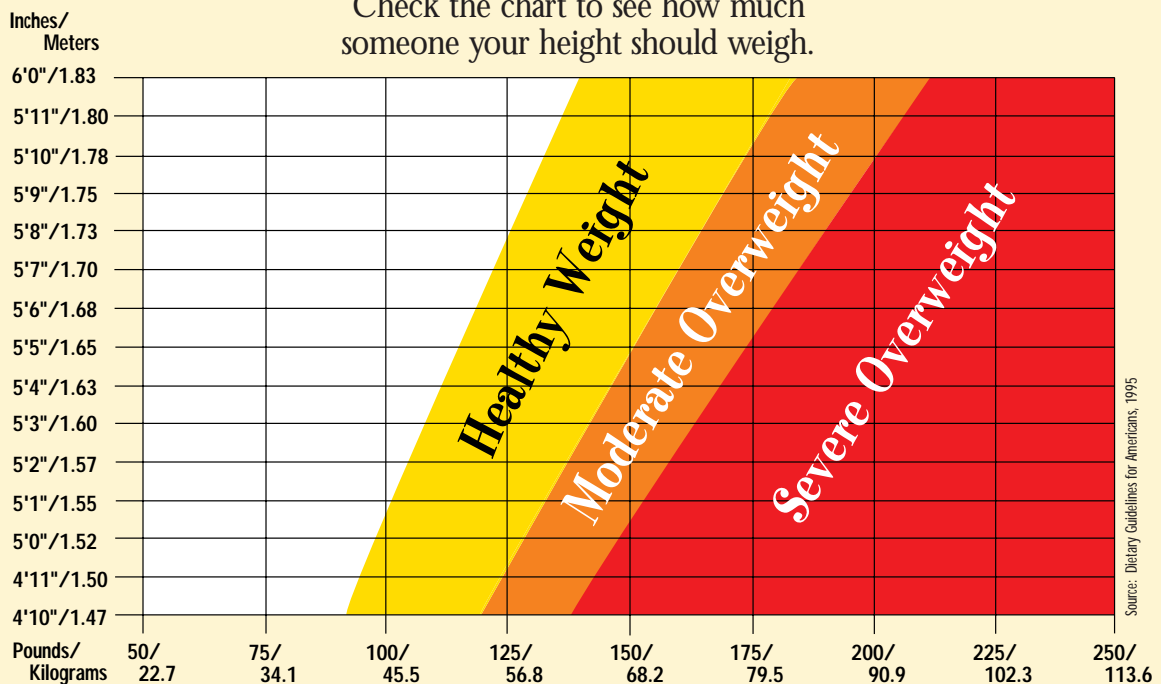


Protect your heart. Watch your weight.

Maintaining a healthy weight can reduce your risk of having a heart attack or stroke, and you will feel better.

Do you know your weight and whether it's right for you?

Check the chart to see how much someone your height should weigh.



Your weight:



Your weight range:



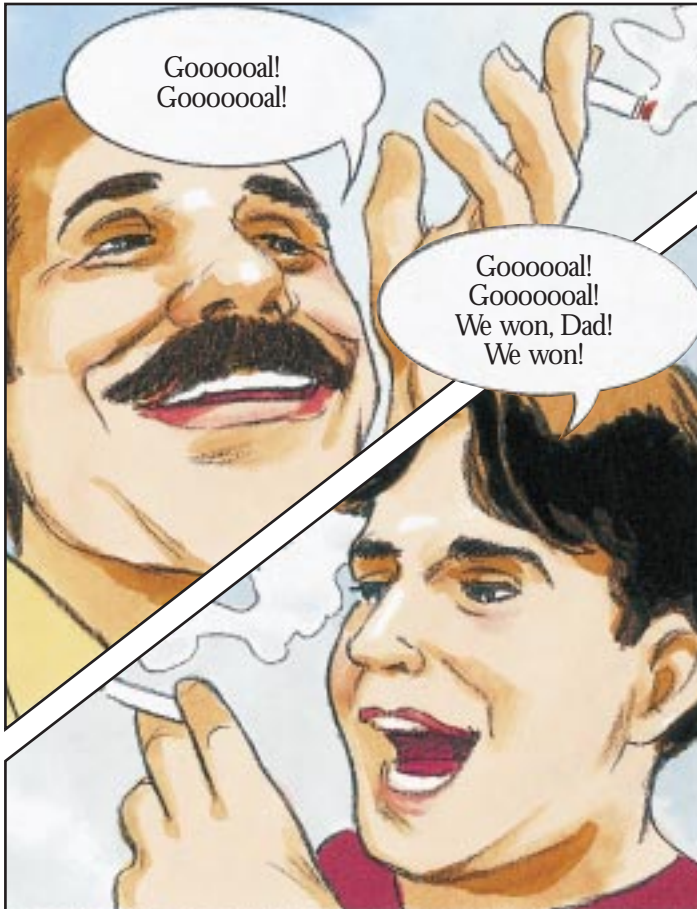
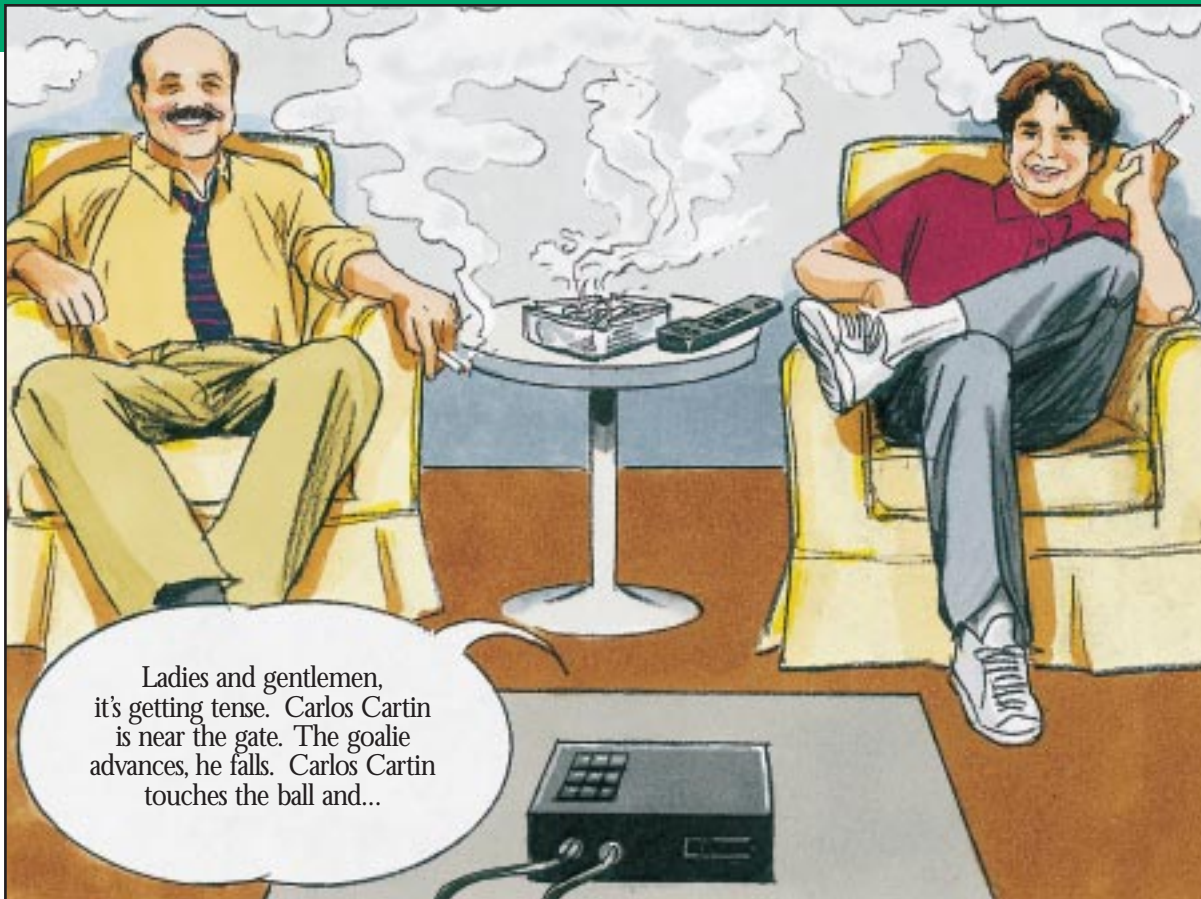
Is your weight within the range suggested for people your height?
If it's higher, you need to think about losing weight.

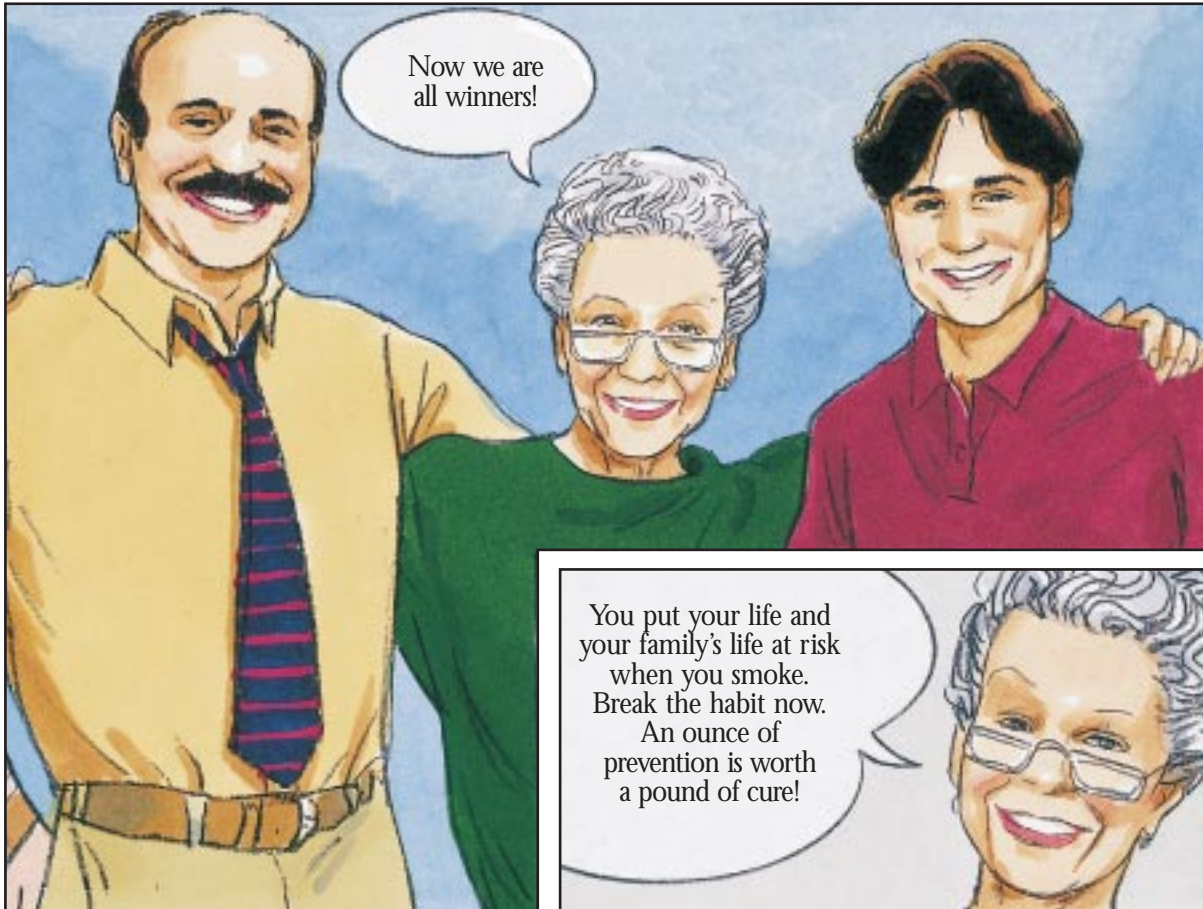


Set your goal - aim for a healthy weight.

- Try not to gain more weight if you're at the right weight for your height. To keep your weight stable, eat food lower in fat and calories and get regular physical activity.
- If you need to lose weight, go slowly. Aim to lose about 1/2 to 1 pound a week.
- If you have a lot of weight to lose, ask your doctor or a dietitian to help you.

The Big Game: Quit Smoking





Help your heart. Stop smoking.



Quitting smoking will lower your risk of heart attack, stroke, and lung disease and help you breathe more easily and feel less tired. What's more, your clothes, hair, and breath will smell fresher, and you will save money by not buying cigarettes. Most important, when you quit smoking, your children won't be exposed to your second-hand smoke, and they will have your good example to follow.

Even if you do not smoke, it is important that you become informed about the best ways to quit. Help those around you and keep your children smoke-free.



Quit smoking and add years to your life!



Mariano and Néstor decided to quit smoking. Néstor made a firm pledge one morning, threw away his cigarettes, and quit for good. Mariano used the following three tips and quit too.

1.
Use the nicotine patch or gum.

"The doctor at the clinic suggested that I use the patch. The patch helped me slow down the urge to smoke."

2.
Get support.

"I also attended a quit-smoking program in the clinic every Thursday night. And I got a lot of support from my family."

3.
Learn how to handle urges to smoke.

"Every time I felt under stress, I wanted to smoke. Instead of smoking, I went to play soccer or talked to a friend."

Remember, an ounce
of prevention is worth
a pound of cure!

