Short-Term Distress Menu - Review journal

Review an attempt at short-term distress menu and choose what to keep, change, or leave aside.

Adults; supported use as appropriate | 10 minutes

Fictional example: Taylor chooses quiet music while waiting for an uncertain result.

Use an ordinary or fictional example, with a clinician when appropriate. Short-term coping aims to get through a moment without adding avoidable harm.

Practice task

Build a menu of accessible distraction, soothing, and support options with a clear time to reassess.

1. What I tried, or what happened in the fictional example:

2. What I noticed before, during, and after; what remains uncertain:

3. What helped, did not help, or was outside my control:

4. Which option fits this moment, and when will you reassess? My optional adjustment or support request:

Scope and adaptation

These are selected DBT-informed educational exercises, not comprehensive DBT, phone coaching, or crisis care. Use individualized clinical assessment and existing care plans. No cold-water immersion, breath holding, intense exercise prescriptions, exposure assignments, or risk scoring are included. Behavior chains and opposite-action decisions need clinician guidance when risk or complexity is present.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Background: Dialectical Behavior Therapy Skills Training: Fundamentals. Full source links and scope: library.morethantherapy.org/approaches/resources/DBT-A07-5