

To all interested, please feel free to use the Self-Compassion Scale (SCS) for research or any other use. Masters and dissertation students also have my permission to use and publish the Self-Compassion Scale in their theses. The SCS is appropriate for ages 14 and up (as long as individuals have at least an 8th grade reading level). If you aren't that interested in using the subscales, you might also want to consider using the Short SCS (12 items), which has a near perfect correlation with the long scale.

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Reference:

Neff, K. D. (2003). Development and validation of a scale to measure self-compassion. *Self and Identity*, 2, 223-250.

Coding Key:

Self-Kindness Items: 5, 12, 19, 23, 26
Self-Judgment Items: 1, 8, 11, 16, 21
Common Humanity Items: 3, 7, 10, 15
Isolation Items: 4, 13, 18, 25
Mindfulness Items: 9, 14, 17, 22
Over-identified Items: 2, 6, 20, 24

Subscale scores are computed by calculating the mean of subscale item responses. To compute a total self-compassion score, reverse score the negative subscale items - self-judgment, isolation, and over-identification (i.e., 1 = 5, 2 = 4, 3 = 3, 4 = 2, 5 = 1) - then compute a total mean.

(This method of calculating the total score is slightly different than that used in the article referenced above, in which each subscale was added together. However, I find it is easier to interpret the scores if the total mean is used.)

HOW I TYPICALLY ACT TOWARDS MYSELF IN DIFFICULT TIMES

Please read each statement carefully before answering. To the left of each item, indicate how often you behave in the stated manner, using the following scale:

- | Almost
never | | | | | Almost
always |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | |
| _____ | | | | | 1. I'm disapproving and judgmental about my own flaws and inadequacies. |
| _____ | | | | | 2. When I'm feeling down I tend to obsess and fixate on everything that's wrong. |
| _____ | | | | | 3. When things are going badly for me, I see the difficulties as part of life that everyone goes through. |
| _____ | | | | | 4. When I think about my inadequacies, it tends to make me feel more separate and cut off from the rest of the world. |
| _____ | | | | | 5. I try to be loving towards myself when I'm feeling emotional pain. |
| _____ | | | | | 6. When I fail at something important to me I become consumed by feelings of inadequacy. |
| _____ | | | | | 7. When I'm down and out, I remind myself that there are lots of other people in the world feeling like I am. |
| _____ | | | | | 8. When times are really difficult, I tend to be tough on myself. |
| _____ | | | | | 9. When something upsets me I try to keep my emotions in balance. |
| _____ | | | | | 10. When I feel inadequate in some way, I try to remind myself that feelings of inadequacy are shared by most people. |
| _____ | | | | | 11. I'm intolerant and impatient towards those aspects of my personality I don't like. |
| _____ | | | | | 12. When I'm going through a very hard time, I give myself the caring and tenderness I need. |
| _____ | | | | | 13. When I'm feeling down, I tend to feel like most other people are probably happier than I am. |
| _____ | | | | | 14. When something painful happens I try to take a balanced view of the situation. |
| _____ | | | | | 15. I try to see my failings as part of the human condition. |
| _____ | | | | | 16. When I see aspects of myself that I don't like, I get down on myself. |
| _____ | | | | | 17. When I fail at something important to me I try to keep things in perspective. |

- _____ 18. When I'm really struggling, I tend to feel like other people must be having an easier time of it.
- _____ 19. I'm kind to myself when I'm experiencing suffering.
- _____ 20. When something upsets me I get carried away with my feelings.
- _____ 21. I can be a bit cold-hearted towards myself when I'm experiencing suffering.
- _____ 22. When I'm feeling down I try to approach my feelings with curiosity and openness.
- _____ 23. I'm tolerant of my own flaws and inadequacies.
- _____ 24. When something painful happens I tend to blow the incident out of proportion.
- _____ 25. When I fail at something that's important to me, I tend to feel alone in my failure.
- _____ 26. I try to be understanding and patient towards those aspects of my personality I don't like.