

# being active

## Lesson 2: Taking Your Pulse

Just like all your muscles, **the heart needs exercise** to become stronger and work better. **Regular moderate activity** helps you climb stairs and play with your children without running out of breath and getting tired. Taking your pulse (or heart rate) and the “talk test” are two ways to measure the intensity of aerobic or cardio physical activity.

### Taking your Pulse (or heart rate)



Use your index and middle fingertips



Carotid artery



Radial pulse

### Participating in at least thirty minutes

of moderate to vigorous activity (see chart below) on all or most days of the week will improve heart health. Be sure to gradually warm up and cool down when doing activities that raise your heart rate.



## Intensity talk test

### INTENSITY / TALK TEST

### EXAMPLES

When you do sedentary or light activities, you should be **able to sing while doing the activity.**

- Watching TV
- Computer/video games
- Talking on the phone
- Housework

If you are doing moderate activities, you should be able to **carry on a conversation comfortably** while engaging in the activity.

- Walking
- Light yard work
- Light weight lifting
- Stretching / Yoga
- Dancing

If a person becomes winded or **too out of breath to carry on a conversation**, the activity they are doing can be considered vigorous activity.

- Jogging/running
- Soccer, basketball, or volleyball
- Heavy yard work
- Swimming
- High intensity aerobics