

NLP

START

HERE

Neuro-Linguistic
Programming for
Beginners



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NLP Starts Here
Neuro-Linguistic Programming from the Start



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Chapter 1 - Introduction: What is NLP?

NLP is the most fundamental of recent advances in human psychology in creating value for people by helping them to achieve their goals and to be more successful.

NLP Stands for Neuro-Linguistic Programming. The name is derived from three components that most affect our human experience:

- ❖ Neuro refers to the nervous system.
- ❖ Language refers to our senses – our ability to see, hear, feel, smell and taste and what we say to ourselves about these experiences to create our point of view.
- ❖ Programming refers to the strategies or “programs” that we run in our nervous system that causes us to get the results that we get in our daily lives.

We have strategies for walking up, for preparing breakfast, for going to work, for falling in love, for building relationships, for ending relationships, for motivation, for decision making, for buying, in fact we have programs for everything that we do.

If you want to understand how to get better results in your life, you most likely will enjoy learning about NLP.

The development of NLP began in the 1970's in California, by Richard Bandler and John Grinder as an innovative approach to psychotherapy, communication, and personal development.

In our mind we construct models of the world so that we may function within it. So, the term Neuro-linguistic Programming is derived from our mental processes and how they are interwoven to affect our behaviour and therefore our results.

Becoming highly trained in Neuro Linguistic Programming will give you invaluable knowledge and skill on how the human mind works. Personally, I believe NLP to be the missing user manual for the mind.

I equate an NLP training to learning how to drive the vehicle that is your unconscious mind, so you know that you can create profound results for you and the people around you.

This gives you the ability to communicate better with people, and to build a very deep level of understanding with anyone you choose. In learning about NLP, you will develop the ability to ask questions that dig deep behind the surface structure of the utterances we make every day and discover the deep structure behind our thoughts and behaviours.

You will learn valuable skills to negotiate problems, and how to solve them. You will learn new techniques to create change and be more creative in your thinking.

We even give you the strategy for lateral thinking, which is perfect for brain storming workshops.

What NLP will also assist you in doing, is discovering the excuses and reasons that you give yourself in not achieving the results that you want, and then using the tools and techniques of NLP to overcome these problems.

So, reading this means that you are making the right decision today, and starting to tap in to more of your true potential, to help find out the excuses and reasons why you haven't yet achieved your ultimate goals and help to realise your potential

. This is the start of an exciting journey, for you to start doing what you want to do, being who you want to be, and having what you want to have. You really don't have to wait any longer to realize your true potential.

Another goal of NLP is the exploration of our identity, begin to Know Yourself Better and your Life Purpose. On yet another level, NLP is a

framework for exploration of a spiritual aspect of the human experience that extends outward to global reaches (or maybe even beyond, extending into the Universe). Excellence and competence are points along the way to reaching out to wisdom and vision.

Just by reading this short book today, you can start here and begin to explore your infinite potential.

Chapter 2 -Two Fundamental Presuppositions of NLP

The Presupposition of NLP are powerful convenient beliefs that we can adopt in our lives. When we act as if these convenient beliefs are true, we tend to get better results in our lives. In this Chapter, we are going to explore two of the fundamental Presuppositions of NLP.

1. The Map Is Not the Territory



One of the presuppositions of NLP that you will hear repeatedly is “The map is not the territory.” What is meant by this? It means that “reality” is elusive and humans cannot experience reality directly; we only know what our senses (and our instruments) tell us. We build a model of reality by our ability to simplify what we measure.

Humans have cone cells in their retinas that are color sensitive to red, green and blue. We see red, blue and yellow as primary colors. It is the mixing of any two of those from which the secondary colors of green,

purple and orange are derived. Dogs have only the yellow- and blue-sensitive cones, which prohibits them from distinguishing red, yellow or green objects based only on color, so their reality is a different world with little color in it.

Honeybees see in the ultra-violet realm of the spectrum. The primary colors they see are blue, green and ultraviolet. Scientists do not agree on which exact color combinations bees see, but they do agree that red is seen as black, so honeybees also perceive a totally different world than we do. Houseflies (and honeybees) have compound eyes so their view of reality, again, is quite different than what we humans see.

So we realize that perceived “reality” is subjective. We each experience reality differently, based upon how we interpret what we perceive with our five senses. We act and react to what we experience, based upon our sensory representational systems--what we see, hear, feel, smell and taste.

Granted, these are animals and insects, but what about among humans? It is clear when you think about it, that different humans are undergoing different perceptions of reality based upon the chemistry and physiology going on in their bodies at any given moment.

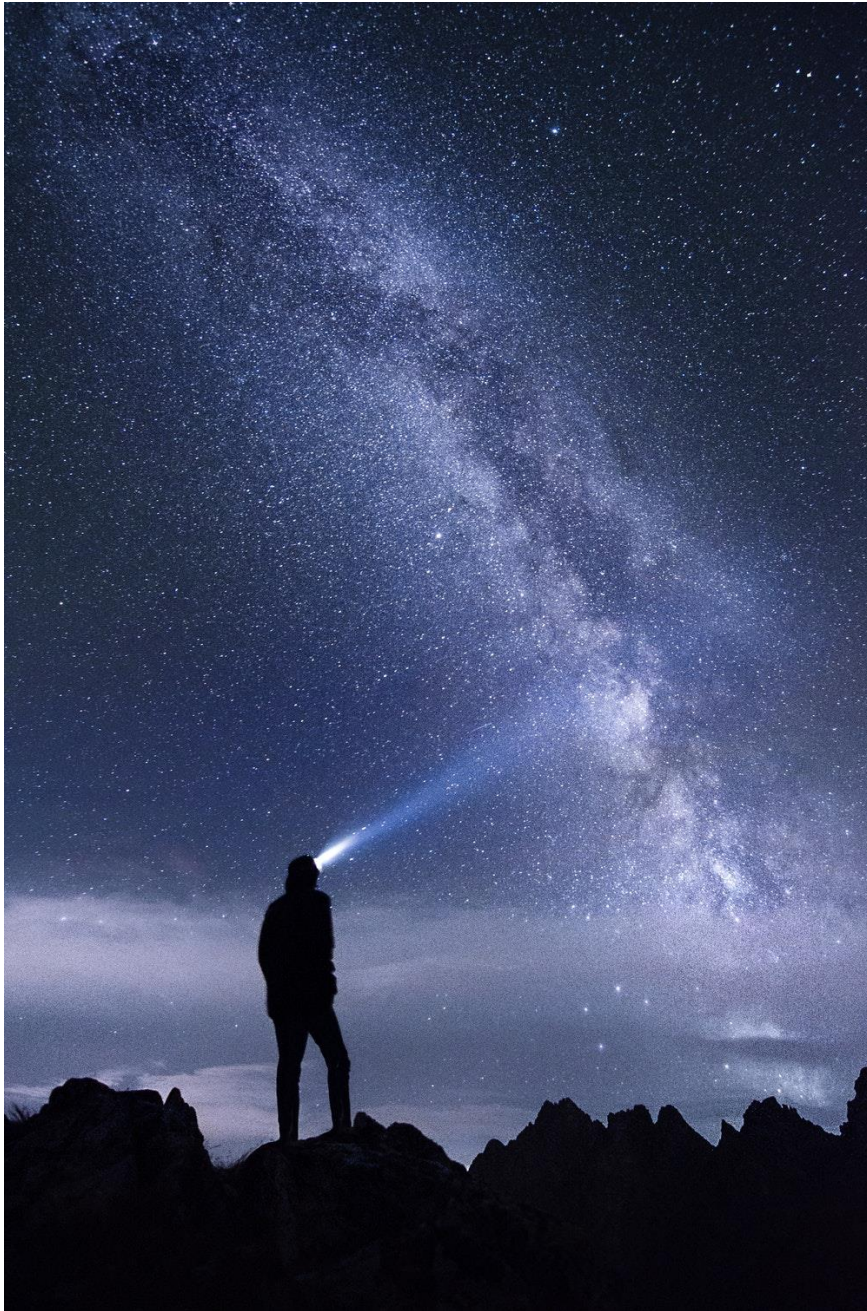
Their reality at that moment may include any of these symptoms, or a combination of these: sweating, nervousness, dizziness, shakiness, weakness, extreme hunger, nausea, headache, blurred vision, and rapid heartbeat. Moderate low blood sugar can produce confusion, irritability, slurred speech, lack of concentration, muscle twitching, and personality changes like tearfulness or anger.

Let's take another, even simpler example. One person in a room is happy, another is depressed. One may be feeling full, the other is hungry. Still another may be chilly, while the other is warm. So it is clear that “reality” among humans and at any given time is extremely subjective.

2. The Whole Universe Is Interrelated and Essentially Indivisible

All the processes within the human body are systemic and interdependent. They cannot be separated from the whole, although for ease of study, we attempt to isolate them into separate categories; i.e., the circulatory system, the immune system, etc.

But we really know that they are each mutually dependent. So, too, are our societies, our planet as a whole, the solar system, our galaxy and all the other galaxies, and our entire universe. All form a set of complex systems that interact and influence each other, to a greater or lesser degree.



It is really impossible to separate any of the subsystems from the whole. All of these systems have a natural way of organizing themselves with an underlying thrust toward seeking homeostasis, an optimal state of balance.

These two principles constitute the entire spectrum of models, tools and techniques used in NLP. The premise of NLP is that humans cannot know reality as it truly is, we can only know it in a subjective way. Therefore, there is no absolute, correct knowing of the world that humans can make.

Instead, it is far better to create the richest, most flexible map of the world that takes into account the systemic and ecological nature of ourselves and our world. The choices a person sees as available to them will be determined by their experience and their map or model of the world.

Having the greatest number of choices or perspectives in any given situation is what produces the most effective people. What NLP aims to do is to allow us to expand our choices and viewpoints that are available in any given situation, thus enabling us to demonstrate excellence in our actions and behaviours, and wisdom derived from an array of perspectives from which to choose.

Chapter 3 - Some Specific Techniques Used in NLP

Anchoring

One very common technique used in NLP is called anchoring. An anchor in NLP is a stimulus that immediately elicits a (desired) state of mind, with the thoughts and emotions that go with it. A good example is hearing a song in the present that brings you right back to a particular time in your past when you heard that song. You remember where you were, what you were doing, and most importantly, you rekindle the emotional state you were in at that time.

The goal of anchoring in NLP, therefore, is to get a particular positive emotional response or elicit a resourceful state to some situation that previously has made you feel some (perceived) negative emotion, such as feeling insecure or upset. You can change your mood or state of mind instantly by “anchoring” the desired positive emotional response. You can reproduce that feeling by firing off the anchor any time you need it.

In NLP, we want to deliberately and purposefully establish an anchor to bring about a resourceful state, and pair the desired state to the anchor, in a similar fashion to the way Ivan Pavlov paired the ringing of a bell to a dog’s salivating when given meat.

In Pavlov’s experiments, dogs naturally salivated (a physiological response) when they saw and smelled meat. Each time, he paired the ringing of a bell to the appearance of the food. After some instances of this pairing, the dogs salivated to the sound of the bell alone, even when no food was presented.

To establish an anchor, we would engage the stimuli (the anchor) when a state is experienced that the subject identifies as being a resourceful state, thus pairing the desired state to the anchor. An example would be to touch a knuckle of the left hand when the resourceful state is experienced, which would neurologically link the two events. Thus, after it is conditioned, we can fire off the anchor any time we wish to produce the resourceful state.



Many anchors happen automatically, unconsciously, without our awareness of what triggered them. These unconscious anchors are being produced all the time and they may or may not produce desired states. They affect our moods, our motivation and confidence, or lack thereof, at any given time.

Probably all of us have had the experience of going along just fine, when suddenly, for no apparent reason, we feel “down” or depressed. Undoubtedly, some unconscious anchor was fired, triggering some old emotion that has nothing to do with what is going on currently, yet we are affected by it.

It is the goal of NLP to become conscious of how anchors affect us so that we may utilize their effects to our best advantage, and even pull ourselves out of an unwanted state by firing off an anchor designed to trigger a resourceful state or emotion.

Reframing

Reframing is a technique that is useful in situations where you feel angry or powerless. The idea is to change the meaning of the situation, or see it from a different perspective, something that allows you to view it in a more empowering way--literally, putting it into a different frame.

For example, loss of a job may seem, at first thought, to be a bad thing that has happened to you. However, when you consider other aspects of the situation, you discover that you are now available for a better job or are open to explore a completely different kind of work that may allow you to be more creative and feel more fulfilled.

You have an opportunity to develop new skills, meet new people. Your life may go off in a completely different direction that, when looked back upon years later, you see as a very good thing that happened to you.

In reframing, then, we change the view of a situation, taking the focus off the negative aspects and look for positive aspects to focus on. This sheds new light on the situation and enables us to make better decisions since we are focusing on the benefits. It also puts us in a better frame of mind which likely will eliminate our original anger and frustration.



Chapter 4 – The Influence of Perls and Satir

Bandler and Grinder observed noteworthy results from the therapies performed by Fritz Perls and Virginia Satir and began modeling it. They found that the methods used by Perls and Satir (and also Milton Erickson) were based on a structure that could be organized into an orderly system and thereby learned by others. They set down this codification, or system, in a book they wrote in 1975 called “The Structure of Magic I: A Book about Language and Therapy.”

In 1962, Satir (who became an internationally renowned family therapist) joined the prestigious Mental Research Institute (MRI) in Palo Alto, CA. The facilities of MRI supported cutting edge research in psychotherapy and the rapidly expanding exploration of the human potential movement that Satir and others were delving into. Dr. Robert S. Spitzer, a Freudian psychoanalyst, introduced Bandler to Satir at his home in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Earlier, Spitzer’s wife had employed Bandler to teach their son to play drums, and Bandler became the caretaker of the Spitzer property in the late 1960’s.

Satir had presented a month-long workshop on Conjoint Family Therapy, and Spitzer asked Bandler to audiotape and transcribe the workshop. Spitzer claims that during the several months Bandler was working on the transcription of the audio tapes, he began to pick up the voice patterns and mannerisms of Virginia Satir.

Spitzer then employed Bandler to assist with editing an unfinished manuscript by the Gestalt therapist, Fritz Perls, who had passed away before finishing it. Impressed with Bandler’s work, Spitzer also gave him some films to transcribe of Perls teaching Gestalt. Bandler again picked up mannerisms and voice patterns of Perls, an approach that later came to be called “modeling.”

Chapter 5 - Modeling and the Use of Submodalities

NLP holds the belief that all behavior can be modeled and reproduced or altered. In NLP we build models by observing language patterns, body physiology and eye movements. From this, we describe sequencing of the elements through the use of the five senses of visual (sight), auditory (sound), kinesthetic (touch), olfactory (smell) and gustatory (taste). We can modify each of these by what are called “submodalities,” which are the characteristics of each sense. From there we fashion a model that can be tested. To meet the test, use of the model must reproduce the behavior or obtain the desired state.



What Is Meant by the Term Submodality?

A fundamental concept of NLP is that all human experience can be broken down into elements perceived by the senses. Each sensory element has its own attributes or dimensions. Submodalities are simply the term that NLP uses to describe the dimensions, characteristics, or attributes of that sensory perception. These submodalities define and modify the meaning, impact, and emotion that a particular sensory perception has on an individual.

All sensory experience is coded in our memories by these various submodalities. They aid our memory of our perceptions, whether they

be internal or external perceptions. As an example, we would be more likely to remember a sharp, bright, colorful picture than a small, blurry, dim one that was not in color.

Here are examples of submodalities:

Visual:

Brightness, size, color/black & white, shape, location, distance, contrast, focus, clarity, movement, speed, three-dimensional/flat, perspective, associated (seen through your own eyes)/disassociated (seeing yourself in the picture-you are observing event from the outside), framed/panoramic, orientation, density/transparency.

Auditory:

High or low pitch, fast or slow tempo, pauses, volume, rhythm, timbre (verbal or tonal quality), duration, clarity, location, distance, internal/external, stereo/mono.

Kinesthetic:

Pressure, location, frequency, texture (smooth/rough), temperature, intensity, vibration, shape, area.

You can change how you feel about some past, future or current event by adjusting the submodalities associated with it. First establish a baseline by thinking of an event that gave you a desired internal experience (such as “happy” or “calm”), and noting how you codify that event visually, auditorily and kinesthetically. These are the most frequently used sensory elements. Run through the various submodalities you used to record that event in your mind--then apply those same submodalities to the event you wish to modify.

The amazing thing about working with submodalities in NLP is realizing that we can change our internal experience of an event, thus giving us greater control over how we process it for future retrieval, by consciously changing the attributes (submodalities) by which we recall it. This changes the meaning we ascribe to the event changing our state thereby allowing a different response; a different behavior. That change our interpretation of our reality.

Conclusion and Next Steps

Becoming highly trained as a Certified Practitioner of NLP will give you a huge amount of knowledge and skill on understanding how the human mind works. I like to call NLP “the user manual for the unconscious mind”. This is the opposite of what most skills-based training courses offer you. Have you ever attended a training course and said “Oh, that was interesting!” put it in the little box in your head called ‘Interesting’ and never use any of the stuff you have learnt? How would you like to attend a training course that not only gave you skills and abilities to understand and utilize the human mind, but also the skills to access all the other material you have learned your whole life that you thought you had forgotten.

I equate a NLP Certification Practitioner training as like learning how to drive the vehicle that is your unconscious mind. By the time you leave the training room, all the skills and abilities are understood, installed, and practiced and you know that they can create profound results for you and the people around you.

So, make the right decision today, and tap in to more of your true potential, find out the excuses and reasons for why you haven’t yet achieved your ultimate goals and ambitions. And start doing what you want to do, start being who you want to be, and start having what you want to have. Don’t wait any longer to realize your true potential.

How long have you held onto your excuses and reasons? Isn’t it time to let them go?

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