## Brilliant ideas

Brill	liant featuresxII
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1.	Let's get positive  So you're stressed? Be grateful. Stress makes life a lot sweeter when you learn to manage it right.
2.	Find an hour a day to play
3.	Cure yourself of the 'disease to please'
4.	Never procrastinate again
5.	Never lose your keys again
6.	What's your Plan B?

7.	On your bike?  Only one thing gets you down, and hence stressed, more than work. Not working.	29
8.	Imagine a place with no phone, no noise, no hassle, no problems.	35
9.	Relaxation – what we can learn from the cavemen.  There's nothing wrong with stress. We're designed to get stressed. It's how we deal with it that's the problem.	39
10.	Reduce interruptions. Reclaim your evenings.	43
11.	Speed parenting (better than stressed parenting)  Children pick up adult stress like a dry sponge soaks up water.	47
12.	When you're bored, dull, lacklustre, you're as stressed as it gets.	51
13.	Achieve the life-work balance in ten minutes  I refuse to call it work-life. It should be life-work. And that's what achieving it entails – a life-work.	55
14.	The perfection trap  Your need to 'get it perfect' isn't about perfection. It's about staying in control.	.59
15.	A shortcut to coping with obstacles  For every behaviour or action, there's a payback. When you work out the payback you often drain away a lot of stress from a situation.	.63

16.	Stress is other people	.69
17.	Watch out for that iceberg!  Like the <i>Titanic</i> , you're beetling along coping like a trouper and then, <i>kerboom!</i> , you're scuppered. You can't get out of bed. That's iceberg stress.	.75
18.	How to make everyone love you  Take the moral high ground. You'll like the view.	.81
19.	Grumpy old git – or really, really sick?  If you're a man and you're angry, could it be your hormones that are to blame?	.85
20.	Let your diet support you in your battle to destress. Lose weight, think clearly, sleep better. All this can be yours with food combining.	.89
21.	Stress proof your Xmas  Season of goodwill and cheer? Yes, if you're not worn down by the constant partying, endless entertaining, relentless cooking – and let's not start on the shopping.	.93
22.	Are you too stressed to be happy?  Stress saps energy and eventually our enjoyment of life. Stress makes us unhappy without us even realising it.	.97
23.	Blitz your home in a weekend	01
24.	The stress clinic is open  You know you're stressed and you know it's affecting your health. Here's what to do about it.	105

25.	Hug your home  It's hard to feel unstressed when your home is filthy. And even if it's clean, keeping it that way is often a major cause of stress.	111
26.	Restoration day.  When you're suffering from chronic, long-term stress. When your batteries are blown.  When burnout is imminent, here is your emergency plan.	115
27.	Crisis management	121
28.	Turning Japanese  Learn from zen. The Japanese bath and tea ceremonies are as much about refreshing the mind and spirit as nourishing and cleansing the body.	125
29.	Make like Tigger – learn to bounce  Everyone gets stressed. Everyone gets disappointed. But how come some people are bet at dealing with it than others?	129 tter
30.	Zap those piles  No, not those kind of piles. We're talking about the avalanche of paper, magazines, unp bills, flyers for pizza houses – the general detritus of 21st-century life that threatens to overwhelm you.	
31.	Standing tall  If your stomach hangs so low there's a chance of it keeping your knees warm, it's time for the Alexander technique.	137
32.	Is stress making you fat? Any sort of stress can lead to weight gain.	141

33.	Embrace the dark side	145
	Reckon you're not an angry person?	
34.	Love your money	151
	And it will love you right back. When that happens life gets a lot less stressful.	
35.	End 'stop and collapse' syndrome	155
	You take holidays. You know how important this is if you want to be stress-free.	
36.	Too stressed to sleep?	159
	Facts: the most reliable predictor of depression is insomnia. Sleeping less than six hours a night is linked to increased obesity. Sleeping less than seven hours a night is linked to increased mortality.	
37.	Ditch the debt	163
	Live on less than you earn. Hey, radical concept.	
38.	Have a holiday at your desk	169
	Imbue the old nine-to-five with a certain glamour and you'll be amazed at how much tension seeps out of your life.	
39.	You're not paranoidthey are out to get you	173
	Are you ready for a journey to the weirder, wilder side?	
40.	How to love the job you've got	177
	Sometimes you can't have the one you want. So you have to love the one you've got.	
41.	Stop acting on impulse	181
	Focus, concentration, sticking to what you've started. That will cut your stress levels instantly	

42.	Take the stress out of your love life	.185
43.	Perfect moments  The ability to create perfect moments is possibly the most valuable life skill you'll ever learn.	.189
44.	Out of your head  A way of handling stress that could improve your sex life too. Result.	.195
45.	Aromatherapy master class  Think that aromatherapy is just for wimps? Wrong. Aromatherapy has attitude.  Aromatherapy kicks ass. Aromatherapy actually works.	199
46.	Tame your 'to-do' list.  The problem with 'to-do' lists is that it takes seconds to scribble yet another entry – and a whole lot longer to get round to doing it.	203
47.	Cherish yourself  Surveys show that we know exactly what we ought to do in order to relax. We just can't be bothered.	207
48.	Reach out  Touchy-feely behaviour is the best stress buster of all. Time to give love and, hopefully, get some back.	213
49.	Supplementary benefits.  Managing stress is simply a matter of managing your body's chemistry. There is a whole battery of supplements that can help you do this.	217

50	Burned out?	.221
50.	What is burn out? It's when a relationship – either work or personal – has got so bad that you just can't stand it any longer.	
51	Runaway, runaway	.225
	Or to give it the grown-up name, retreat.	
52.	Make life easy for yourself  Give up coffee, don't smoke, take exercise – we're always being told that unless we do our stress will become worse. And you know what? It's true.	229
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