

Congratulations! You've decided to train for the Los Angeles Marathon presented by ASICS on March 16, 2025.

Completing 26.2 miles at any pace is a challenging and amazing goal and everyone can benefit from a training plan that **focuses on endurance, builds mileage and speed consistently, and incorporates plenty of recovery.**

LA Road Runner Coach David Levine has developed five training schedules for beginners through advanced runners, walkers, and run/walkers. Here is how to choose the best plan for you and understand the workout terms.

CHOOSING A TRAINING SCHEDULE

Pick a plan based on where you are NOW, not where you feel you *should* be. Starting out too hard can lead to injury and will limit your endurance. You can switch schedules if you find it is too much - or too little - for your fitness.

Levels are based on total weekly mileage, time spent working out, and intensity (% of mileage that is considered speed work).

LEVEL 1: Speed work is 5% of weekly mileage. You are a beginner, walker, run/walker or returning from an injury. Focus is on completing, not competing in the marathon.

LEVEL 2: Speed work is 10% of weekly mileage. You are an advanced beginner who is not new to running. You would like to add a little more speed work.

LEVEL 3: Speed work is 15% of weekly mileage. You've have completed other races and like being more competitive. You have a goal of a PR and want to add more speed work.

LEVEL 4: Speed work is 20% of weekly mileage. You are an experienced runner who does multiple races a year. You have goals for a PR or a qualifying time. You want to be more competitive.

LEVEL 5: Mileage and total time spent working out is higher. Speed work is 15% of weekly mileage. You are a competitive runner who wants to rank high in your age group. You are racing the marathon and aiming for a PR.

UNDERSTANDING PACES

To find your training pace goals, use a recent race result or complete a mile as fast as possible. Plug that time and distance into a running pace calculator.

EASY: Slow enough that you can hold a conversation with a friend. 6/10 running effort. Heart Rate Zone 2.

MRP / MARATHON RACE PACE: Pace you expect to run 26.2 miles on race day. Heart Rate Zone 3.

HMRP / HALF MARATHON RACE PACE: Pace you expect to run 13.1 miles on race day. High end of Heart Rate Zone 3.

T-PACE / THRESHOLD: Anaerobic Threshold pace. Between your 5K and 10K pace. Fast enough that holding a conversation is difficult. Comfortably uncomfortable. 8/10 running effort. Low end of Heart Rate Zone 4.

I-PACE / INTERVAL: Fast 800 meters (1/2 mile) to 1,600 meters (1 mile). High end of Heart Rate Zone 4.

R-PACE / REPETITION: Fast 200 meters to 800 meters. Just below sprinting. Heart Rate Zone 5.