

**20 MINUTE MANAGER** 

# Managing Time



Focus on what matters Avoid distractions Get things done

#### **20 MINUTE MANAGER SERIES**

## Managing Time

Focus on what matters Avoid distractions Get things done



GIFT OF THE ASIA FOUNDATION NOT FOR RE-SALE

CUÁHARVARD BUĞINESEREVEW PRESS KBÖRÖNMÜSÜĞLÜŞLÜ BÁN LAI



#### **HBR Press Quantity Sales Discounts**

Harvard Business Review Press titles are available at significant quantity discounts when purchased in bulk for client gifts, sales promotions, and premiums. Special editions, including books with corporate logos, customized covers, and letters from the company or CEO printed in the front matter, as well as excerpts of existing books, can also be created in large quantities for special needs.

For details and discount information for both print and ebook formats, contact booksales@harvardbusiness.org, tel. 800-988-0886, or www.hbr.org/bulksales.

Copyright 2014 Harvard Business School Publishing Corporation

All rights reserved Printed in the United States of America 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise), without the prior permission of the publisher. Requests for permission should be directed to permissions@hbsp.harvard .edu, or mailed to Permissions, Harvard Business School Publishing, 60 Harvard Way, Boston, Massachusetts 02163.

The web addresses referenced in this book were live and correct at the time of the book's publication but may be subject to change.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Managing time.

pages cm. — (The 20-minute manager series) Includes index.

ISBN 978-1-62527-224-9 (alk. paper)

Time management.
 HD69.T54.M363 2014
 650.1'1—dc23

2013050976

ISBN: 9781625272249 eISBN: 9781625272294

#### **Preview**

You have too much to do and too little time. It's frustrating and stressful and has a big impact on your success. Although you can't magically add more hours to the day, you can learn to manage your time—however limited it may be—more carefully and efficiently. This book will quickly teach you the basic steps and tools you can use to take control:

- · Logging your time
- · Prioritizing your responsibilities
- Developing a plan to reallocate your time to reflect your goals
- Managing deadlines
- Creating detailed, task-oriented to-do lists
- · Avoiding interruptions and distractions

### Contents

Why Manage Your Time?	1
Assess Yourself	7
State your objectives 10	
Break down your responsibilities 11	
Track your time 16	
Examine your results 20	
Develop a Plan	23
Reclaim your time 25	
Create a big-picture vision 27	
Do a reality check 32	
Execute Your Plan: Time Boxing	35
Time-boxing basics 38	
Setting up your time boxes 42	
How to prioritize tasks 44	

#### Contents

Keep Yourself on Track  Manage your deadlines 52	49
Overcome procrastination 56	
Avoid interruptions 59	
Think on your feet 66	
Reassess Yourself	67
Are you still on track? 70	
Getting back on track 72	
Sources	75
Learn More	77
Index	81