

Neck Stretch 1

Level 1 / Posture 2

Benefits: Increases flexibility of neck & shoulders

Time to Do: 1 – 3 minutes

Body Parts Used by This Posture: Neck; Upper Back

This Posture is a Good Warm Up Before Many Poses:

including any that stretch or strengthen the spine, neck or shoulders, especially Shoulder Stand & Plow

Good After: Lion, Leg Fold, Posture Clasp, Cobra

Builds You Up for: Neck Stretch 2; Neck Rolls; Postures that require strength & flexibility in the upper back, neck & shoulders.

Combines Well With: Cobra

Energy Center Used: Throat center



Do Not Do This Pose If: You've had neck injuries. For some people with neck injuries, this stretch is very helpful – but for others it can make things worse. Check with your Doctor first!

You'll enjoy this stretch if you do a lot of desk work or if you keep a lot of your tension in your neck. It's refreshing, quick and can be done anywhere.

Difference from Neck Stretch 2: Does not stretch the sides of the neck.

Difference from Neck Roll: Does not include rolling motion to either side.

Yoga Snack

This is a great office break; and a good one to do when you're stuck in traffic.

Start

Sitting
Arms by your
sides

OR Start

Lying on your stomach. Your neck & spine & legs lined up with each other. Some weight resting on your elbows.

OR Start

Sitting at a table /
desk.
Elbows on the
desk.

OR Start

Lying on your back,
Your neck & spine & legs lined up with each other.

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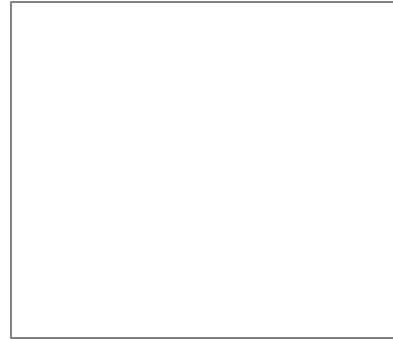
Then

Bring chin to chest

Discovery

Feel exactly where the stretch begins & ends

Hold 6 – 20 breaths



Optional next step

Place hands on head
Gently press down on the back of your head.
This will increase the stretch in the neck.

Warning: Do not press so hard that the stretch becomes painful!

Watch Out for pain or burning in your neck. If you feel this, you're pressing too hard on your head. Ease the pressure on your head.

Tip Pressing down on your head is meant to be a gentle pressure.

Common Errors

- ? Twisting the neck
- ? Starting out with neck & back crooked, (not lined up with each other)
- ? Over-stretching.

Breathing

Breathe in

Breathe out, bringing head to chest

Hold Breathe in & out **6 – 20 times.**

Release

Breathe in

Breathe out, raising head up (& returning limbs to starting position)