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Think of STOP as an acronym that walks you through hitting the pause button before your emotions take over:



STOP: Resist the urge to react immediately. Picture a big red stop sign in your mind. Don't say or do anything impulsively, just pause.



Take a Step Back: Physically or mentally remove yourself from the situation. This creates space between you and your emotions, giving you a moment to reset. Even if you can't literally step away, shifting your focus helps prevent knee-jerk reactions.



Observe: What's happening inside and outside of you? Notice your thoughts, emotions, and physical sensations without judgment. What's the situation? How is your body reacting? What story is your mind telling you?



Proceed Mindfully: Respond in a way that aligns with your values, not just your emotions in the heat of the moment. Instead of reacting impulsively, choose a response that serves you in the long run.

By following these steps, you gain control over how you react instead of letting emotions call the shots. It's like switching from a wild rollercoaster ride to cruising at a steady speed.



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