


LIFE'S
LITTLE
INSTRUCTION
BOOK


*Simple Wisdom
and a Little Humor for
Living a Happy
and Rewarding Life*

H. JACKSON BROWN, JR.


1. Compliment three people every day.
2. Have a dog.
3. Watch a sunrise at least once a year.
4. Remember other people's birthdays.
5. Buy whatever kids are selling on card tables in their front yard.
6. Have a firm handshake.

7. Overtip
breakfast
waitresses.


8. Life is short. Eat more pancakes and fewer rice cakes.
 9. Say “thank you” a lot.
 10. Say “please” a lot.
 11. Learn to play a musical instrument.
 12. Sing in the shower.
 13. Use the good silver.
 14. Buy great books, even if you never read them.
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15. Learn to make great chili.
 16. Plant flowers every spring.
 17. Be the first to say “hello.”
 18. Live beneath your means.
 19. Drive inexpensive cars, but own the best house you can afford.
 20. Be forgiving of yourself and others.
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21. Learn the
rules. Then
break some.


22. Learn three
clean jokes.
 23. Wear polished shoes.
 24. Floss your teeth.
 25. Drink champagne
for no reason at all.
 26. Ask for a raise
when you feel
you've earned it.
 27. If in a fight, hit
first and hit hard.
 28. Return all the
things you borrow.
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29. Teach some kind of class.
30. Be a student in some kind of class.
31. Never buy a house without a fireplace.
32. Once in your life own a convertible.
33. Plant a tree on your birthday.
34. At meetings, resist turning around to see who has just arrived late.

35. Donate two pints of blood every year.
 36. Treat everyone you meet like you want to be treated.
 37. Learn to identify the music of Chopin, Mozart, and Beethoven.
 38. Make new friends but cherish the old ones.
 39. Keep secrets.
 40. Take lots of snapshots.
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41. Never refuse
homemade brownies.
 42. Don't postpone joy.
 43. Write thank-you
notes promptly.
 44. Show respect
for teachers.
 45. Show respect for
police officers and
firefighters.
 46. Show respect for
military personnel.
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47. Never
give up on
anybody.
Miracles
happen
every day.

48. Don't waste time learning the "tricks of the trade." Instead, learn the trade.
 49. Keep a tight rein on your temper.
 50. Buy vegetables from truck farmers who advertise with hand-lettered signs.
 51. Put the cap back on the toothpaste.
 52. Take out the garbage without being told.
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53. Avoid overexposure to the sun.
 54. Vote.
 55. Surprise loved ones with little unexpected gifts.
 56. Stop blaming others. Take responsibility for every area of your life.
 57. Never mention being on a diet.
 58. Make the best of bad situations.
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59. Live so that
when your
children think
of fairness,
caring, and
integrity, they
think of you.


60. Support a high school band.
 61. Admit your mistakes.
 62. Ask someone to pick up your mail and daily paper when you're out of town. Those are the first two things potential burglars look for.
 63. Use your wit to amuse, not abuse.
 64. Remember that all news is biased.
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65. Take a photography course.

 66. Be brave. Even if you're not, pretend to be. No one can tell the difference.

 67. Let people pull in front of you when you're stopped in traffic.

 68. Always accept an outstretched hand.


 69. Demand excellence and be willing to pay for it.
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70. Whistle.

 71. Give to charity all the clothes you haven't worn during the past three years.

 72. Never forget your anniversary.

 73. Never hire someone you wouldn't invite home to dinner.

 74. Choose a charity in your community and support it generously with your time and money.
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75. Never give
up on what
you really want
to do. The
person with
big dreams is
more powerful
than one with
all the facts.

76. Don't take good health for granted.
77. When someone wants to hire you, even if it's for a job you have little interest in, talk to them. Never close the door on an opportunity until you've had a chance to hear the offer in person.
78. Don't mess with drugs, and don't associate with those who do.
79. Slow dance.

80. Someone will always be looking at you as an example of how to behave. Don't disappoint.
81. Avoid sarcastic remarks.
82. Forget the Joneses.
83. Even if you're financially well-to-do, have your children earn and pay for *all* their automobile insurance.
84. Don't smoke.