

A man with short, light brown hair and a light beard is running on a paved path through a lush green forest. He is wearing a blue mesh tank top and black shorts. The path is slightly curved and leads into the distance. The background is filled with dense green foliage and trees, with soft sunlight filtering through the leaves.

5 KM TRAINING GUIDE

8 WEEKS • INTERMEDIATE

Next level

8 week intermediate 5 km training guide



If you're getting comfortable running 5 km and want to up your intensity, this is the training guide for you. Over 8 weeks, you'll improve your speed, strength and endurance, so you start hitting new personal bests.

Here is an explanation of the terms used in this training guide:

→ **Run:** This refers to running at a pace that you are comfortable with. The key is that you cover the distance.

→ **Fast run:** There is no specific definition for this speed – it just needs to be faster than the comfortable pace you regularly run at. Get into the habit of timing your regular runs and your fast runs to ensure you are stepping up the speed a little.

→ **Long run:** Each weekend in this guide includes a long run. Run these at a comfortable pace – don't think about how fast you're going, just enjoy getting your legs moving. This is also a good opportunity to try out new courses or even go off road with some

trail running. If you are feeling fatigued, take a drink break or slow down to a walk.

→ **Interval training:** This is how you improve your speed. Interval training involves bursts of running at an increased pace, followed by a recovery period running at a slower pace. For example, run 400 m hard and fast, and recover by jogging or walking 400 m, then repeat. Before interval training it's important to warm up by jogging a kilometre or two, stretching, and doing a few sprints of 100 m. Cool down afterwards with a short jog.

→ **Tempo run:** This training technique involves continuous runs with an easy beginning, a build up in the middle, then ease back and cruise to the finish. A typical tempo run begins with 5-10 minutes easy running, continues with 10-15 minutes faster running, and finishes with 5-10 minutes cooling down.

→ **Rest:** Rest and recovery is an essential part of your training. This training guide includes two rest days. The final week before

the 5 km race is also a gentler week. Taper your training so you can hit your peak on race day.


→ **Test:** Week four includes a 5 km test, which is a timed 5 km run to track your improvement. If you don't feel ready for this, head out for a solid 5 km run.

→ **Stretch + strengthen:** Stretching is key to a strong, supple body and should be done daily. Strength training, particularly for your core muscles, is an important focus of this training guide. Try bodyweight exercises like push-ups, chin-ups or dips, or light weights with high reps at your local gym. Tuesdays and Thursdays would be good days to combine strength training with your easy run (optional).



Don't forget to stretch! It's important to start each training session with some stretches and gentle movement to prepare your body for your workout. After your session, cool down with more stretches to help with recovery.

8 week intermediate 5 km training guide

Week	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1	Rest	4.5 km run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	5 x 400 m run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	30 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest	6.5 km run fast Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	60 min run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>
2	Rest	4.5 km run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	30 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	30 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest	6.5 km run fast Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	65 min run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>
3	Rest	4.5 km run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	6 x 400 m run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	30 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest	8 km run fast Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	70 min run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>
4	Rest	4.5 km run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	35 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	30 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest	Rest	5 km test Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>
5	Rest	4.5 km run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	7 x 400 m run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	40 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest	8 km run fast Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	75 min run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>
6	Rest	4.5 km run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	40 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	40 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest	9.5 km run fast Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	85 min run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>
7	Rest	4.5 km run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	8 x 400 m run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	45 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest	9.5 km run fast Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	90 min run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>
8	Rest	4.5 km run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	30 min tempo run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest or easy run Notes: <input type="checkbox"/>	Rest	Rest	 Race day

Fact: If you do follow this guide to the letter you will have completed nearly **235 km** of running – pat on the back! **Exercise safely:** Talk to your GP before starting a new exercise program, especially if you have any existing health conditions.

- The training guide is just that, a guide – it is important to make it work for you. If you want to do long runs on Saturday rather than Sunday, simply change the days. Or if you miss a run you can make it up on one of your rest days.
- Check off your training each day to keep track of your achievements. Each step gets you closer to your goal!