

How to use Inversion

What it is

Instead of asking how to succeed, ask how you'd guarantee failure, then avoid doing those things.

It's Charlie Munger's version of an old algebra trick: invert, always invert.

When to use it

When you're stuck chasing a goal and the direct path isn't obvious.

Steps

1. **Name your goal.** What are you trying to achieve?
2. **List guaranteed ways to fail.** Then circle any you're already doing.

Common mistake

Only ever asking how to win. The fastest fix is often just to stop losing.

Pairs with

Second-Order Thinking and Regret Minimization.

Example: a lasting marriage

Date: Mon, Sep 8

Your goal

Build a strong, lasting marriage

Ways to guarantee failure

Circle any you're already doing.

Stop communicating openly

Keep score of who did what

Skip date nights for months

Criticize instead of asking

Let resentment build silently

Stop being physically affectionate

Let work bleed into every evening

Never apologize first

Starting today, I will stop: Letting work take over every evening

Inversion Worksheet

Date: _____

Your goal

Ways to guarantee failure Circle any you're already doing.

Starting today, I will stop: _____