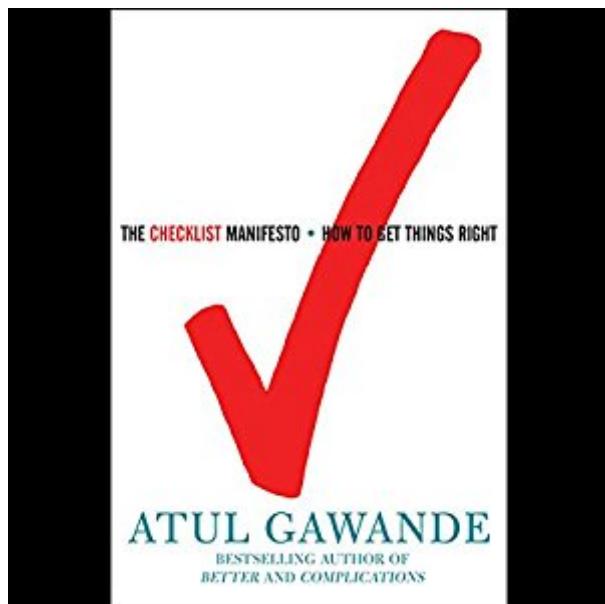


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# The Checklist Manifesto: How To Get Things Right



## Synopsis

In his latest bestseller, Atul Gawande shows what the simple idea of the checklist reveals about the complexity of our lives and how we can deal with it. The modern world has given us stupendous know-how. Yet avoidable failures continue to plague us in health care, government, the law, the financial industry— in almost every realm of organized activity. And the reason is simple: the volume and complexity of knowledge today has exceeded our ability as individuals to properly deliver it to people— consistently, correctly, safely. We train longer, specialize more, use ever-advancing technologies, and still we fail. Atul Gawande makes a compelling argument that we can do better, using the simplest of methods: the checklist. In riveting stories, he reveals what checklists can do, what they can't, and how they could bring about striking improvements in a variety of fields, from medicine and disaster recovery to professions and businesses of all kinds. And the insights are making a difference. Already, a simple surgical checklist from the World Health Organization designed by following the ideas described here has been adopted in more than twenty countries as a standard for care and has been heralded as “the biggest clinical invention in thirty years” (The Independent).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is one of those insights that only come to those who are ready to receive it. The concepts behind a well-designed and validated checklist are far more powerful than many would admit, mostly because a checklist is not an "invention" as much as the codification of what a well-formed

team does to deliver timely excellence in the face of an uncertain environment. More than just codification of what is known, however, a checklist serves as a launching pad and guide to fundamentally improve processes and systems. Even more, a thoughtful checklist can serve as a way to bridge disciplines to allow practitioners to work together who might otherwise not have found a common language. One hopes that the concept and practice of checklists will be adopted across many disciplines.

Gawande writes in a captivating style. He's a pleasure to read, and this book really supports the notion of how a simple checklist can be the difference between success and failure in tasks where success should be the norm. Perhaps it's no earth shattering revelation, but Gawande does such a good job with his writing and presenting the idea, it leaves you feeling refreshed and flush with ideas.

Bought this for my DD's BF, a med school student. I've also read another book by this author and find his writing extraordinarily honest and real. I love how he challenges all of us - whether a doctor or not - to THINK about how medicine is delivered and what it is like to be the one standing between the patient and health or life or death.

This is one of the best books I have read. I have recommended it to many people. It is a simple, yet powerful, tool to use for decision-making in any complex situation - even though it was written to improve patient safety in surgical procedures. I recently had a complex dental procedure and at the end, because of the obvious co-operation and respect between the dentist and the dental-nurse - including the nursing feeling confident to check that the dentist had removed an additional insert - I told them that they "passed" the test of meeting the requirements of The Checklist Manifesto, and I explained the principles outlined in the book. They wrote down the name of the book and author and said that they would get a copy.

A really insightful and fascinating discourse on how decision-making has been and continues to be made on a logical and progressive manner. As a retired architect, Atul's explanation of how the role of the master-builder has had to change dramatically as buildings became larger and taller and so require systematic co-ordination of many sub-sectional specialists. His knowledge as a surgeon makes his explanation of the ideal way medical specialists need to interact when performing operations is totally credible. Thank you, Atul. Encouraged by this book I am almost finished reading

his book, *Being Mortal*.

Not long, exhausting checklists, but checklists distilled down to the essential, what absolutely has to happen or what will cause an issue with a process that needs to be checked. The author does a fantastic job of weaving his experience as a surgeon and his effort to create a global surgical checklist with anecdotes from aviation and construction, making the book an easy and fascinating read. Unfortunately, if you have any kind of surgery scheduled soon, it will also probably terrify you and hopefully prompt you to ask more questions of your surgeon. I highly recommend this book.

This is a very relevant, readable, and important book. It describes elegantly the marriage of professional expertise and safe routines that all of us might wish for ourselves, whether practitioner or patient. Atul Gawande is a surgeon, associate professor at Harvard Medical School, and leader of the WHO's Safe Surgery Saves Lives programme. The titles of his other books are - *A Surgeon's Notes on Performance* and *A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science*. But he is not merely a medical author. In my lay opinion, he is a superb writer, engaging, inspirational and creator of riveting narratives. As well as numerous medical scenarios, he also uses tales from another profession where lives are constantly at stake - aviation, as well as the high-risk world of international finance and investment. All fascinating....

About halfway through and it is indeed a good read, and fine testament to the use of checklists. I only gave it 3 stars because I understood from a colleague that it was "great for making checklists". But (so far) the target audience seems to be those that need to be convinced of the value of checklists in business, industry and medicine. I was seduced by the dark side many years ago, so I need no convincing. I purchased this book to learn ways to improve checklist creation and effectiveness. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be much information in that regard - however there are 2 or 3 sample checklists in the back of the book. If what I am looking for appears later in the book, I will gladly update my review.

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