

### Fitness Plan II – Posture (*standing exercises*)

By David Zid

*Do you ever feel that you are hunched over like a “vulture”? Posture seems to be an issue for many people with PD. Here are a few exercises and stretches designed to improve your posture. I call them “anti-vulture” exercises.*

- Standing Back Lineup**—Stand with your back to the wall. Place your arms out against the wall. Make yourself look like a giant “T” with your palms flat to the wall. Remember to press your hips, low back, shoulders, head, elbows and hands to the wall. Now push against the wall with your hands as hard as you can for a ten count. Repeat this activity with palms facing down, palms out, and finally palms up.
- Standing Shoulder Stretch**—Stand with your back to the wall. You’re your elbows and press your arms to the wall, palms facing out in a “goal post arms” position. Remember again to press your entire body to the wall as in the Standing Back Lineup position. Now move both arms up the wall, over your head as far as you can go, keeping elbows tight to the wall. Return your arms to starting position. Repeat this movement 5 times.
- Arm Circles**—Stand away from the wall, place arms in the giant “T” position, and point your thumbs up. Pinch your shoulder blades together and stand tall. Move arms forward in a circular motion; make small, medium and large circles. Repeat each circle 2 - 5 times. Move arms backward and repeat for each circle size. Repeat circle exercises with palms facing down, palms forward, and palms back.
- Arm Pumps with Bands**—This can be performed standing or seated. You will need a stretch band or tubing for this exercise. Loop the band around a stationary object (pole or stair railing) and hold one end (handle) in each hand. The band should have some tension on it. Place arms at your sides and flex them at the elbow. Now pull back on the band with both arms and squeeze the shoulder blades. Lift your head high and look up and out. Complete 15 – 20 repetitions using as large a movement as possible. The last 2 reps should be difficult to complete.
- Corner Stretch**—Stand facing a corner with your hands at chest height. With palms pressed against the walls, slowly walk into the corner feeling a stretch in your chest and shoulders. Hold for a ten count. Repeat 2 to 5 times. Repeat the above exercise with elbows on the wall, feeling a stretch in your shoulders. Hold for a ten count. Repeat 2 to 5 times.