What it does: Strengthens the muscles in your thighs & buttocks.

Goal: To do this exercise without using your hands as you become stronger.

How to do it:

1. Sit toward the front of a sturdy chair with your knees bent & feet flat on the floor, shoulder-width apart.

2. Rest your hands lightly on the seat on either side of you, keeping your back & neck straight & chest slightly forward.

3. Breathe in slowly. Lean forward & feel your weight on the front of your feet.

4. Breathe out & slowly stand up, using your hands as little as possible.

5. Pause for a full breath in & out.

6. Breathe in as you slowly sit down. Do not let yourself collapse back down into the chair. Rather, control your lowering as much as possible.

7. Breathe out.

Repeat 10–15 times. If this number is too hard for you when you first start practicing this exercise, begin with fewer & work up to this number.

Rest for a minute & then do a final set of 10–15.