

The Brookbush Institute Publishes a NEW Glossary Term: 'Drop Sets'

The Brookbush Institute continues to enhance education with new articles, new courses, a modern glossary, an AI Tutor, and a client program generator.

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“

Research indicates that drop sets, particularly with multiple drops, may result in the largest improvements in endurance, strength, and potentially hypertrophy when compared to other set strategies. ”

Dr. Brent Brookbush, CEO of Brookbush Institute

Glossary Term: [Drop Set](#)

- Related Article: [Drop Sets: Comprehensive Systematic Review and Training Recommendations](#)

- - Related Course: [Acute Variables: Set Strategies \(Supersets, Pyramid Sets, and Drop-Sets\)](#)

DEFINITION

Drop Sets: Performing a set with repetitions-to-failure, followed by an immediate reduction in load and a continuation (without rest) of repetitions-to-failure, and potentially 1 or 2 more decreases in load ("drops") with repetitions-to-failure.

- Single-drop example: Reps to failure with 80% and 60% of

1 RM load and minimal rest between loads.

- Multiple-drops example: Reps to failure with 85, 65, and 45% of 1 RM load and minimal rest between loads.

SEMANTIC CLARIFICATION

- “Drop” refers to the reduction in load after failure, without a pause or rest between efforts.
- “Set strategy” indicates that drop sets are not exercises themselves, but programming methods used during an exercise.
- “Failure” refers to voluntary muscular failure, defined as the point at which the lifter cannot complete another repetition with good form.

STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

Strengths

- Consolidates a high training volume into fewer sets, increasing session efficiency.
- May result in larger improvements in muscular endurance and strength when compared to

conventional training.

- It may provide a novel stimulus to aid in pushing past a training plateau.

Limitations

- Results in significant immediate post-exercise decreases in performance (strength and power).
- May increase time to optimal recovery, influencing optimal training frequency.
- May result in an increased risk of compromised form, fatigue, and an increased risk of injury.

APPLIED EXAMPLE

Dumbbell Press with Drop Sets

- Perform repetitions to failure at ~10 RM load (e.g., 60 lbs) (~10 reps)
- Immediately reduce the load by ~25% (e.g., 45 lbs) and continue to failure (~5 more reps)
- Reduce once more by another ~25% (e.g., 30 lbs) and continue to failure (~5 more reps)

Strength-Stability Drop Set (Advanced)...

Brent Brookbush

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