TYPES OF ARM BALANCES AND THEIR CHARACTERISTICS

MOSTLY UPRIGHT	LEANING FORWARD	UPSIDE DOWN
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SHOULDER JOINT POSITION		
Neutral Arms are close to the body Less stress on the joint	Shoulder flexion, 45°- 90° Arms are in front of the body More stress on the joint	Shoulder flexion, 90°-180° Arms are above the head Most stress on the joint
ACTION REQUIRED		
Lift the butt of the ground. Requires core strength and upper body strength.	Balance out the weight of the upper and lower body. Requires core strength, upper body strength, arm strength.	Find equilibrium of the entire body weight over the hands. Requires a strong, well-integrated structure.
DEVELOPS		
Core and upper body strength, useful for pelvic floor strengthening	Core strength, upper body strength, arm strength, wrist strength.	Core strength, upper body strength, arm strength, wrist strength; sense of body position in space.
ASSISTANCE NEEDED		
Blocks are useful under hands to assist with the lift.	Blocks are useful under feet to assist with the lift and stabilize the body.	Spotter is needed at the beginning. Wall can be helpful.
RELEASE VALVES		
Collapsing chest over bellyTensing the neckShrugging the shoulders toward the ears	Relying too much on the armsSplaying the elbows outTensing the neck	Collapsing in the lower backCollapsing in the shouldersTensing the neck
SIMILAR PARTIAL WEIGHT BEARING POSES (good for preparation or substitutions)		

