

# UNHELPFUL THINKING STYLES

## ALL OR NOTHING THINKING



Sometimes called “black & white thinking”.

*“If i’m not perfect, I have failed”*  
*“Either I do it right or not at all”*

## OVERGENERALIZING

**“EVERYTHING IS ALWAYS TERRIBLE”**

**“NOTHING GOOD EVER HAPPENS”**

Seeing a pattern based upon a single event, or being overly broad in the conclusions we draw.

## MENTAL FILTER



Only paying attention to certain types of evidence.

*Noticing our failures but not seeing our successes*

## DISQUALIFYING THE POSITIVE



Discounting the good things that have happened or that you have done for some reason or another.

*“That doesn’t count”*

## JUMPING TO CONCLUSIONS



There are two key types of jumping to conclusions:

- **Mind Reading**  
*(imagining we know what others are thinking)*
- **Fortune telling**  
*(predicting the future)*

## MAGNIFICATION & MINIMIZATION



Blowing things out of proportion (catastrophising), or inappropriately shrinking something to make it seem less important.

## EMOTIONAL REASONING



Assuming that because we feel a certain way, what we think must be true.

*“I feel embarrassed so I must be an idiot”*

## SHOULD MUST

Using critical words like ‘should’, ‘must’, or ‘ought’ can make us feel guilty, or like we have already failed.

If we apply ‘shoulds’ to other people the result is often frustration.

## LABELING



Assigning labels to ourselves or other people.

*“I’m a loser”*  
*“I’m completely useless”*  
*“They’re such an idiot”*

## PERSONALIZATION



Blaming yourself or taking responsibility for something that wasn’t completely your fault. Conversely, blaming other people for something that was your fault.