


# Unhelpful Thinking Styles

**All or nothing thinking**




Sometimes called 'black and white thinking'

*If I'm not perfect I have failed*

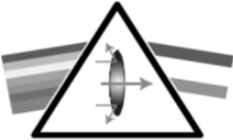
*Either I do it right or not at all*

**Over-generalizing**



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)


$2 + 2 = 5$

**Magnification (catastrophizing) & minimization**



Blowing things out of proportion (catastrophizing), 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**

**"this is my fault"**

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