

THOUGHT DISTORTIONS

1. **All or Nothing Thinking:** You see things in black and white categories. If your performance falls short of perfect, you see yourself as a failure.
2. **Overgeneralization:** You see a single negative event as a never-ending pattern of defeat.
3. **Mental Filter:** You pick out a single detail and dwell on it exclusively so that your vision of all reality becomes darkened, like the drop of ink that discolors the entire beaker of water
4. **Disqualifying the Positive:** You reject positive experiences by insisting they don't count for some reason or other. In this way you can maintain a negative belief that is contradicted by your everyday experiences.
5. **Jumping to Conclusions:** You make a negative interpretation even though there are no definite facts that convincingly support your conclusion.
6. **Magnification (Catastrophizing) or Minimization:** You exaggerate the importance of things (such as your goof up or someone else's achievement), or you inappropriately shrink things until they appear tiny (your own desirable qualities or the other fellow's imperfections). This is also called the binocular trick.
7. **Emotional Reasoning:** You assume that your negative emotions reflect the way things really are: "I feel it, therefore it must be true"
8. **Should Statements:** You try to motivate yourself with should and shouldn't, as if you had to be whipped and punished before you could be expected to do anything. "Musts" and "oughts" are also offenders. The emotional consequence is guilt. When you direct statements toward others, you feel anger, frustration, and resentment.
9. **Labeling and Mislabeleding:** This is an extreme form of overgeneralization. Instead of describing your error, you attach a negative label to yourself: "I'm a loser." When someone else's behavior rubs you the wrong way, you attach a negative label to him: "he's a louse." Mislabeleding involves describing an event with language that is highly colored and emotionally loaded.
10. **Personalization:** You see yourself as the cause of some negative external event which in fact you were not primarily responsible for.