

Thinking Errors

Thinking errors are common ways of thinking that everyone uses from time-to-time. But, they can make us feel more worried or depressed than we need to be. So, it's helpful to be able to identify when we're thinking in these ways.

Thinking Error	Definition	Example
Catastrophising	Worrying that the worst case scenario will happen.	I feel nauseous, what if I have cancer?
Black-and-White Thinking	Thinking in extreme categories (not seeing the shades of grey).	I'm a total failure! She's perfect.
Underestimating Ability	Underestimating your ability to cope.	If she leaves me, I'll fall apart.
Mind Reading	Assuming you know what other people are thinking.	He thinks I'm an idiot and she doesn't like me.
Personalisation	Being quick to assume self- responsibility for situations	It's all my fault. I made her worry.
Fortune Telling	Believing that your worries will definitely come true in the future.	I'll fail this assignment, this will be a disaster.
Labelling	Assigning global negative traits to yourself and others.	l'm worthless. He's lazy.
Jumping to Conclusions	Drawing a conclusion without enough evidence to support it.	She didn't reply to my text, she must hate me!
Emotional Reasoning	Assuming that your emotions reflect the way things really are.	I feel worried, that means something bad will happen!
Unrealistic Standards	Setting unattainable standards for yourself and/or others.	She should just <i>know</i> what I want!
Filtering	Noticing the bad and dismissing the good.	Forgetting a compliment and fixating on criticism.