# **10 AUTOMATIC NEGATIVE THOUGHTS**

# **HOLDING YOU BACK**

## All or nothing thinking



Also called 'black and white thinking.'

"If I'm not perfect, I've failed. "If I can't finish this, I won't start." "The whole thing is bad."

#### Overgeneralizing

Always... Never... Everything... Nothing...

Making big conclusions based on a single event or piece of evidence.

"Nothing good ever happens." "I always mess up."
"This will never work out.

#### Mental Filter



Paying attention to certain kinds of evidence, mostly negative.

- Noticing our failures more than our successes.
  - Seeing your weaknesses more than your strengths.

#### Discounting the positive



Discounting the good things that happened or that you have done.

"That doesn't count anyway." "It doesn't matter because I still didn't get the job."

## **Jumping to Conclusions**



Making assumptions:

"I know he doesn't like me."
"He hurt me on purpose."

# Fortune telling:

I'm going to mess up."
"It won't work."

# Magnification and Minimisation



Blowing things out of proportion (catastrophizing) "Everyone will laugh and see me as a fool forever."

K Shrinking something to make it seem less important, "Giving my mom money wasn't enough. I could have done more,"

# **Emotional Reasoning**



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

"I feel like a failure, I must be a failure." "I feel ugly. I must be."

# **Should and Must Statements**

"SHOULD" "MUST" "OUGHT" THEY BETTER

Using "should", "ought", or "must" statements that set up unrealistic expectations of yourself and others.

"I shouldn't ever get angry."
• "People should be nice and kind." "He must never lie to me."

# Labeling



Assigning labels to ourselves and other people.

"I'm a loser," "I'm useless," "I'm not smart," "I'm stupid," "I'm so dumsy," "I'm so irresponsible."

#### Personalization



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