







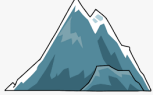





Finding Alternative Thoughts

UNHELPFUL THINKING HABITS	ALTERNATIVE MORE BALANCED THOUGHT
MENTAL FILTER 	<i>Am I only noticing the bad stuff? Am I filtering out the positives? Am I wearing those gloomy specs? What would be more realistic?</i>
 MIND-READING	<i>Am I assuming I know what others are thinking? What's the evidence? Those are my own thoughts, not theirs. Is there another, more balanced way of looking at it?</i>
PREDICTION 	<i>Am I thinking that I can predict the future? How likely is it that that might really happen?</i>
 COMPARE & DESPAIR	<i>Am I doing that 'compare and despair' thing? What would be a more balanced and helpful way of looking at it?</i>
CRITICAL SELF 	<i>There I go, that internal bullies at it again. Would most people who really know me say that about me? Is this something that I am totally responsible for?</i>
 SHOULD AND MUSTS	<i>Am I putting more pressure on myself, setting up expectations of myself that are almost impossible? What would be more realistic?</i>
JUDGEMENTS 	<i>I'm making an evaluation about the situation or person. It's how I make sense of the world, but that doesn't mean my judgements are always right or helpful. Is there another perspective?</i>
 EMOTIONAL REASONING	<i>Just because it feels bad, doesn't necessarily mean it is bad. My feelings are just a reaction to my thoughts – and thoughts are just automatic brain reflexes</i>
MOUNTAINS AND MOLEHILLS 	<i>Am I exaggerating the good aspects of others, and putting myself down? Or am I exaggerating the negative and minimising the positives? How would someone else see it? What's the bigger picture?</i>
CATASTROPHISING 	<i>OK, thinking that the worst possible thing will definitely happen isn't really helpful right now. What's most likely to happen?</i>
 BLACK AND WHITE THINKING	<i>Things aren't either totally white or totally black – there are shades of grey. Where is this on the spectrum?</i>
MEMORIES 	<i>This is just a reminder of the past. That was then, and this is now. Even though this memory makes me <u>feel</u> upset, it's not <u>actually</u> happening again right now.</i>